

VENGEANCE OF THE

MOONKNIGHT



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IT'S ALIVE





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MOON KNIGHT

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MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED AND WAS REBORN IN THE SHADOW OF KHONSHU, THE EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON. SPECTOR BECAME MOON KNIGHT, THE FIST OF KHONSHU, TO FIGHT EVIL. THROUGH HIS MIDNIGHT MISSION, HE WAS THE DEFENDER OF ALL THOSE WHO TRAVEL AT NIGHT.

VENGEANCE OF THE
MOON KNIGHT

IT'S ALIVE

IN THE WAKE OF MARC SPECTOR'S DEATH, A FAKE MOON KNIGHT TOOK UP THE MANTLE AND, IN MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF, INCITED INCREASED VIOLENCE AND FEAR AMONG THE CRIMINAL UNDERBELLY AND BEGAN CORRODING THE LEGACY THAT MARC HAD LEFT BEHIND. DETERMINED TO PROTECT MARC'S REPUTATION AND EVERYTHING THE MOON KNIGHT MANTLE STANDS FOR, HUNTER'S MOON AND TIGRA TOOK IT AS A PERSONAL MISSION TO BRING THIS FALSE MOON KNIGHT DOWN. USING THE MEMORIES OF A PREVIOUS FIST OF KHONSHU, THEY DISCOVERED THE IDENTITY OF THIS IMPOSTOR TO BE MAX COLERIDGE—A.K.A. THE SHROUD!

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"8-BALL"



THE MIDNIGHT MISSION. NOW.



THE MOUNT.
THEN.

YOU
COULDN'T
HAVE LEFT ME
ALONE!

YOU
COULDN'T
HAVE LET ME
BE, HUNTER'S
MOON!

NO.

NOT WHILE
YOU WEAR WHAT
DOESN'T BELONG
TO YOU.



WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
PLAYING AT,
MAX?

YOU AND
MARC AND I...WE
ALL GO BACK TO THE
WEST COAST
AVENGERS
DAYS!

THAT WAS
A LONG TIME
AGO, TIGRA.

THINGS
CHANGE.

YEEK!

YOU
SHOULD HAVE
REMAINED AS
THE SHROUD.

A FITTING
DRESS FOR A
DEAD MAN.

NOW.

SO, LIKE...
WAS THE SHROUD
A **GOOD GUY** OR
A **BAD GUY**?

I'M PRETTY
SURE HE WAS
SETTING HIMSELF
UP AS THE L.A.
KINGPIN A
WHILE BACK.

HE GOES
BACK AND FORTH,
IT APPEARS. I TRY TO
STAY CURRENT ON
THESE THINGS, BUT
SOMETIMES...

BUT I
SUPPOSE THAT'S
NOTHING NEW TO
YOU, IS IT,
8-BALL?

OR
WOULD
YOU PREFER
"JEFF"?



NAH. **JEFF HAGEES** IS
JUST ANOTHER
LOSER.

I
MEAN, SO'S
8-BALL.

BUT I'M
TURNING THAT
AROUND,
RIGHT?

I'M DOING
GOOD. I'M DOING
BETTER. I EVEN SAVED
MOON KNIGHT'S LIFE,
BACK ON HART
ISLAND!

**MOON
KNIGHT** TURNED
THINGS AROUND.

THAT
MEANS I
CAN TOO.



THEN.

"THE
SHROUD."

THAT NAME
STANDS ONLY FOR
FAILURE.

WORSE:
A *CRAZY*
FAILURE.

MAX,
DON'T--

EVERYONE
LEFT ME.

NO ONE
UNDERSTOOD
ME.

THE ONLY
ONE WHO *COULD*
UNDERSTAND ME...



...WAS
MOON
KNIGHT.

AND HE'S
DEAD.

NOW.

THING
YOU GOT TO
UNDERSTAND IS,
ALL US **SUPER
VILLAINS--**

--ONES WHO
AREN'T **CRAZIES**,
THAT IS--

--WE'RE ALL
SPIT-SCARED
OF **MOON
KNIGHT**.

EVERYONE
KNOWS WHAT
HE USED TO BE
LIKE.

EVERYONE
KNOWS WHAT
HE DID TO **RAUL
BUSHMAN**.

AND I
THOUGHT THAT
WAS ALL THERE
WAS TO HIM,
YOU KNOW?

AND IT
WAS KIND
OF COOL
TOO?

YOU WERE
IMPRESSED BY
HIS BRUTALITY?

I MEAN,
NOT **PER
SE**.

BUT HE
WAS THE **BIG
DOG**. AND PEOPLE
RESPOND TO
THAT.

SHORT OF
THE **PUNISHER**,
MOON KNIGHT WAS
THE **SCARIEST**.

AND AT
LEAST THE
PUNISHER WOULD
ONLY **SHOOT**
YOU.



I'M NOT CERTAIN I FOLLOW.



OH, RIGHT!

IT WASN'T TILL WE WERE LOCKED UP IN THE MYRMIDON* THAT I UNDERSTOOD WHAT THAT COST HIM.

HE'D LOST EVERYTHING-- FAMILY, FRIENDS, **EVERYTHING**-- BEING MOON KNIGHT. BECOMING THE **BIG DOG**.

BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE THE **BIG DOG** ANYMORE. HE WANTED TO BE **BETTER**.

*SEE *DEVIL'S REIGN: MOON KNIGHT* #1!



THAT WAS WHEN I GOT TO **THINKING**, FOR THE FIRST TIME.

BEING A SUPER VILLAIN HADN'T GOT ME ANYWHERE.

AND IF THIS GUY, THE GUY WE ALL THOUGHT WAS SUCH A **BADASS**, WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE LOSING **EVERYTHING** AND **STILL** WANTED TO DO BETTER...



...THEN WHAT WAS STOPPING **ME**?

WHAT DID I HAVE TO LOSE?



MAYBE I'M NOT A BADASS. KNOWING WHAT IT COST **MOON KNIGHT**, MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO BE.

BUT SEEING WHAT WANTING TO BE **BETTER** BROUGHT HIM--THIS PLACE, THESE PEOPLE--**THAT** WAS WHAT I WANTED.



THEN.

TIGRA!

I'M GOOD!

DO WE
TAKE THIS TO
THE STREET?

YEAH.

HE'S
GOING TO COME
AFTER US.

YOU DON'T
THINK HE'S GOING
TO *RUN* AGAIN?



NO.

NOW THAT
WE KNOW WHO
HE *IS*...



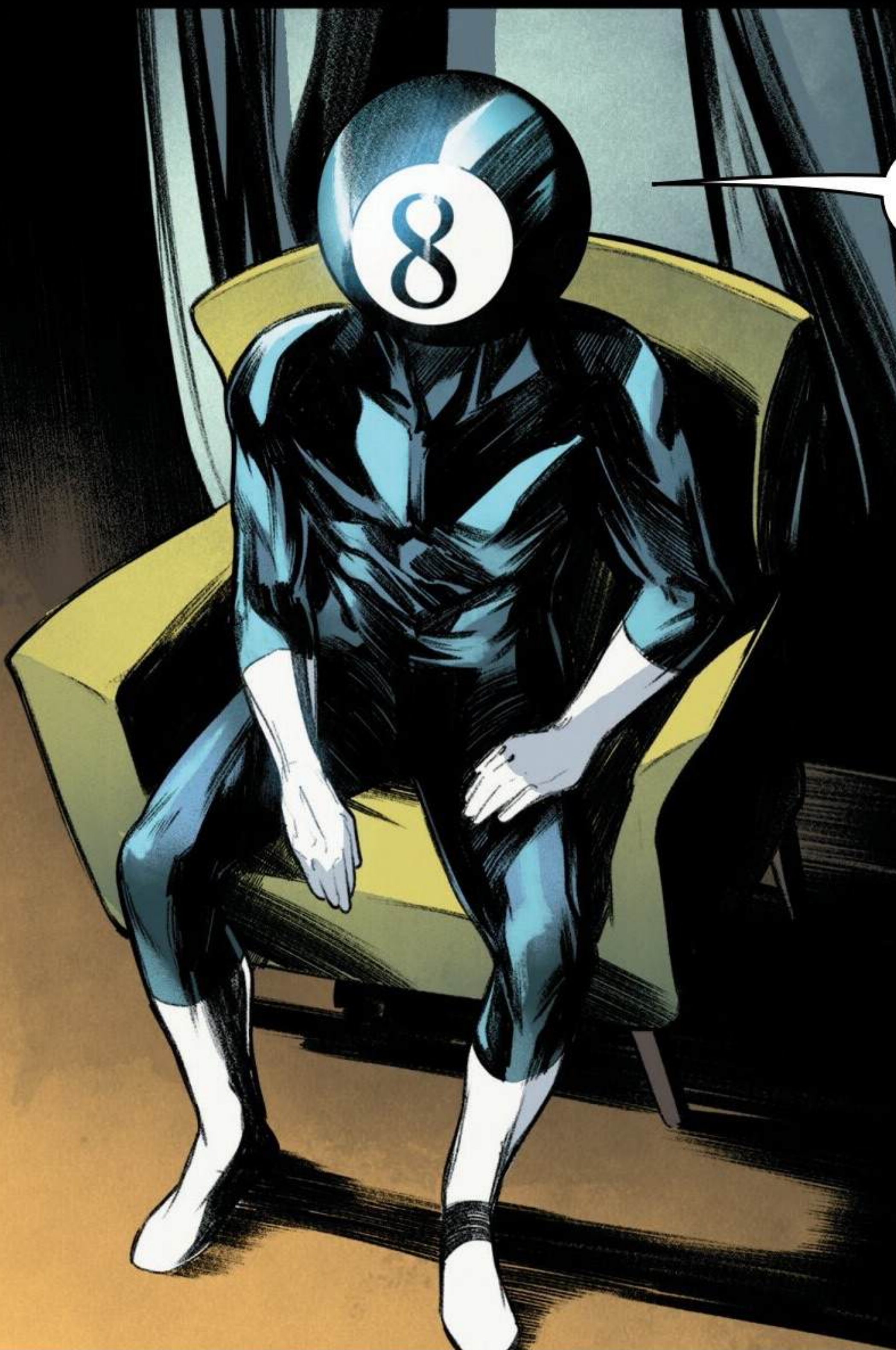
...HE
CAN'T LET *US*
GET AWAY.

NOW.

SO, WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU'RE A SUPER HERO NOW?

AW, I DUNNO.

SEEMS LIKE KIND OF A WEIRD THING TO CALL **YOURSELF**, RIGHT?



IT WOULD BE NICE THOUGH.

"8-BALL. SUPER HERO."

MAYBE I'LL GET THERE. SOMEDAY.

IF I DON'T DIE FIRST.



THAT'S...

THAT'S ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY.

WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING...

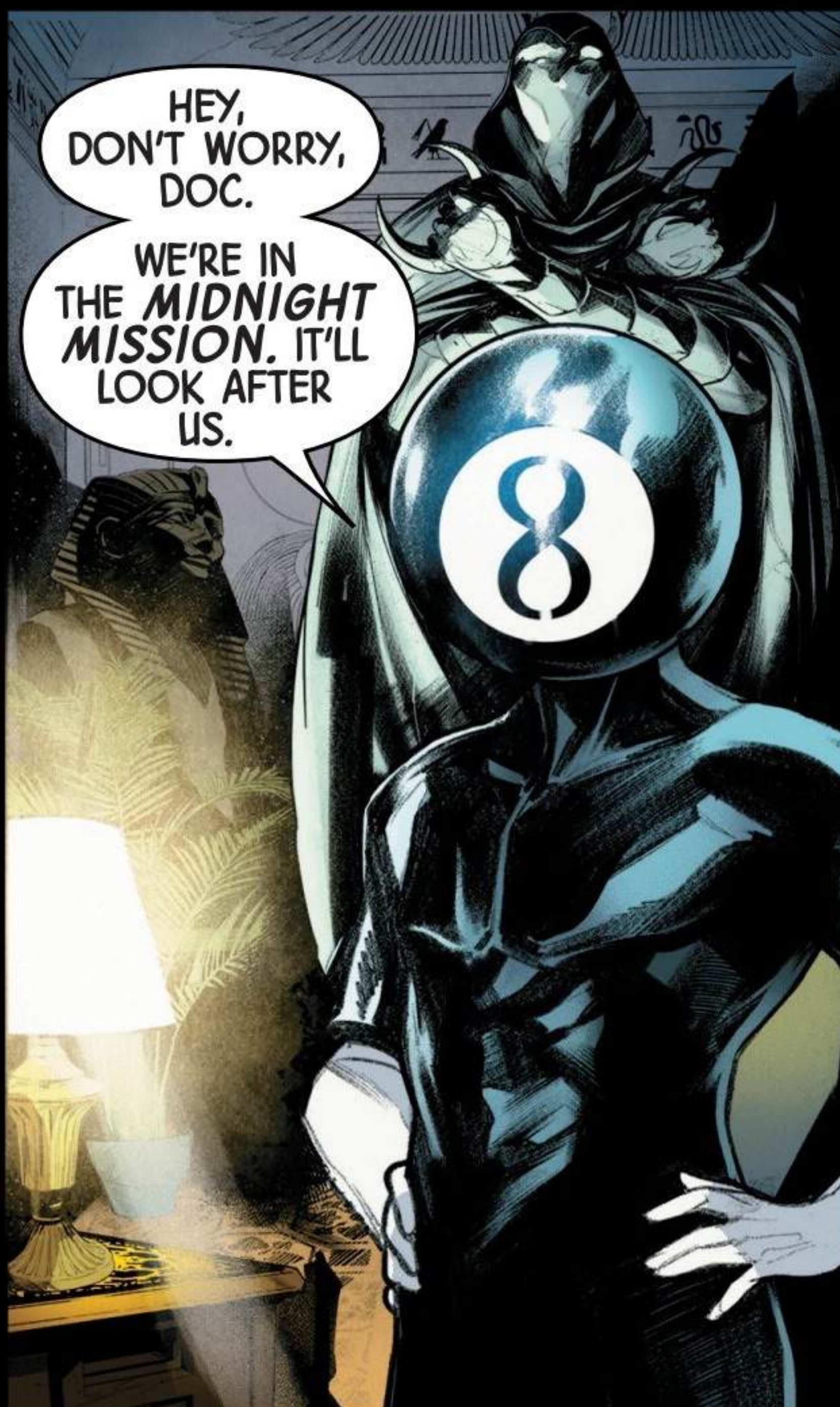
HEY, DON'T WORRY, DOC.

WE'RE IN THE **MIDNIGHT MISSION**. IT'LL LOOK AFTER US.

IT WILL, YES.

BUT I SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH MARC--WITH **MOON KNIGHT**.

AND HIS CONCERN WAS ALWAYS THIS: WHO'S LOOKING AFTER THE ONES LEFT OUT **THERE?**



THEN.

HE WOULD
UNDERSTAND.

WE WERE
FRIENDS.

I CAN'T *BE* THE SHROUD
ANYMORE. BECAUSE THE
SHROUD IS *CRAZY!*
THE SHROUD IS
DANGEROUS!

JUST LIKE
MOON KNIGHT
HAD BEEN!

BUT PEOPLE
LOVE MOON
KNIGHT NOW! PEOPLE
TRUST MOON KNIGHT,
RESPECT MOON KNIGHT!

SO, YOU THINK
THAT YOU CAN
BECOME
HIM?!

THAT YOU
CAN *STEAL* THE
GOOD NAME HE
WORKED HARD
TO BUILD?

THAT
HE DIED
FOR?!



I AM
HONORING
HIM!

WE FOUGHT
LORE AND MASTER
PANDEMONIUM
TOGETHER, FOUGHT
TAURUS...

I INVITED
HIM TO JOIN MY
NIGHT SHIFT!



AND
NOW HE'S
GONE.

AND SO I'M
CARRYING ON HIS
WORK. IN HIS
MEMORY.



MEMORY?

YOU
DEFILE MY
BROTHER'S
MEMORY!



YOU
EMBRACE
THE MADNESS
HE LEFT
BEHIND!

YOU
THREATEN
THE SAFETY HE
BROUGHT!

YOU SULLY
HIS NAME IN
YOUR THEFT
OF IT!



NO--

NO, IT'S
NOT LIKE
THAT--

I LOST
THE **WOMAN**
I LOVED--

I CAN'T
BE THE SHROUD,
NOT LIKE **THAT**.

SHE **HATES**
ME NOW. DO YOU
UNDERSTAND WHAT
THAT'S **LIKE**--

NO.

BUT
MARC
DID.



MOON
KNIGHT LOVED
A WOMAN ONCE.
WOMAN NAMED
MARLENE.

THEY
WENT WAY
BACK.

THEY
EVEN HAVE A **KID**
TOGETHER. AND HE
LOST THEM **BOTH**
BECAUSE OF WHO
HE **WAS**, WHAT
HE **DID**.

BUT
HE DIDN'T
THEN STEAL
DAREDEVIL'S
NAME AND DRAG
IT IN THE **DIRT**.

HE
DID THE
WORK.



PTOO



WHAT?



YOU AND MARC WERE THE SAME. YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT HE GOT **HELP**. HE GOT **BETTER**. HE DID THE WORK TO **FIX HIS LIFE**.

BUT YOU, YOU'RE JUST A **COWARD**.



I--

NO, I--I--



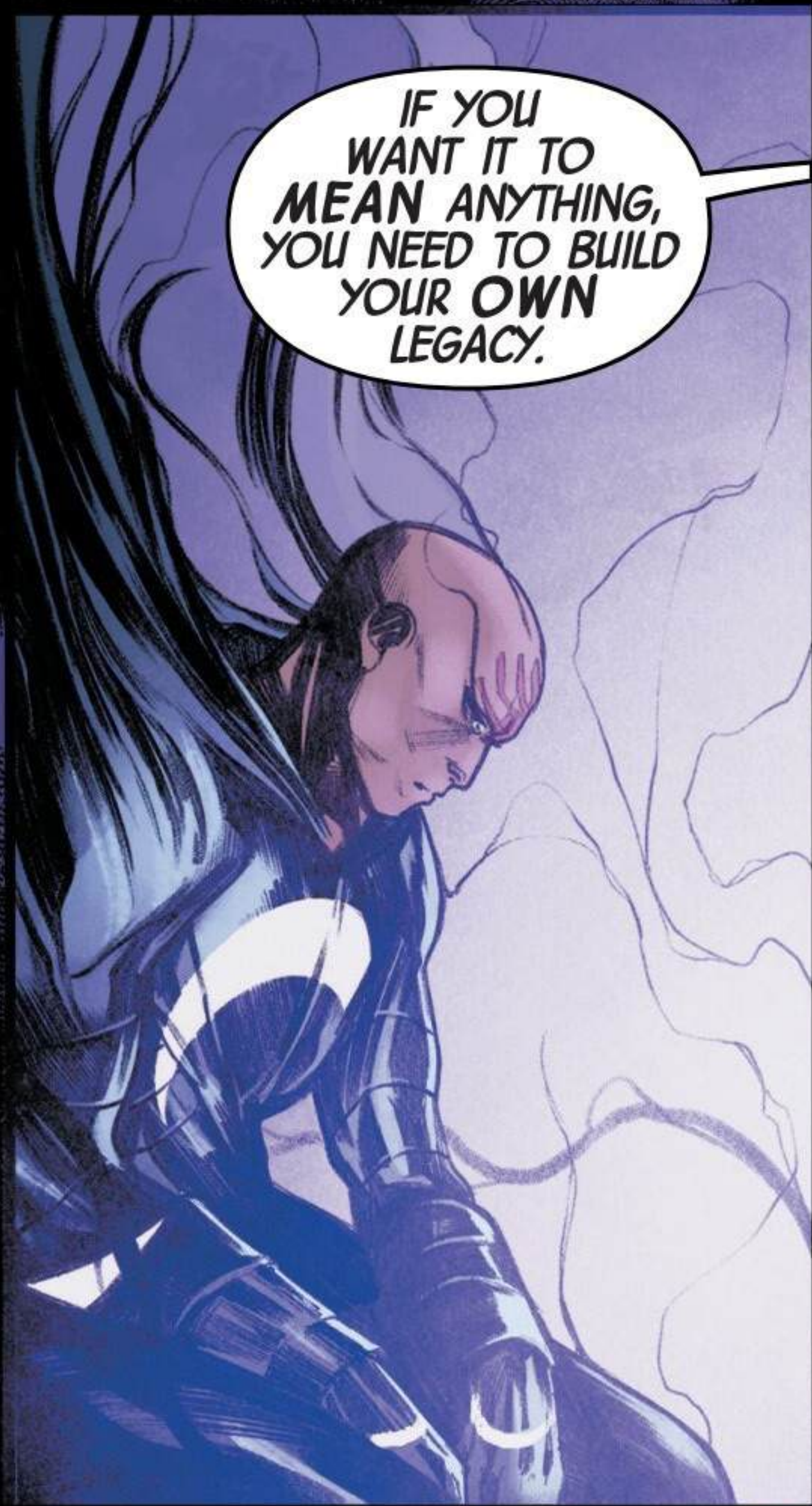
MOON KNIGHT FOUGHT THE **AVENGERS**, CONQUERED FOR AN **INSANE GOD**. HE FELL ABOUT AS **LOW** AS A MAN **COULD**.

BUT HE DIED A **HERO**. A **HERO** I **LOVED**.

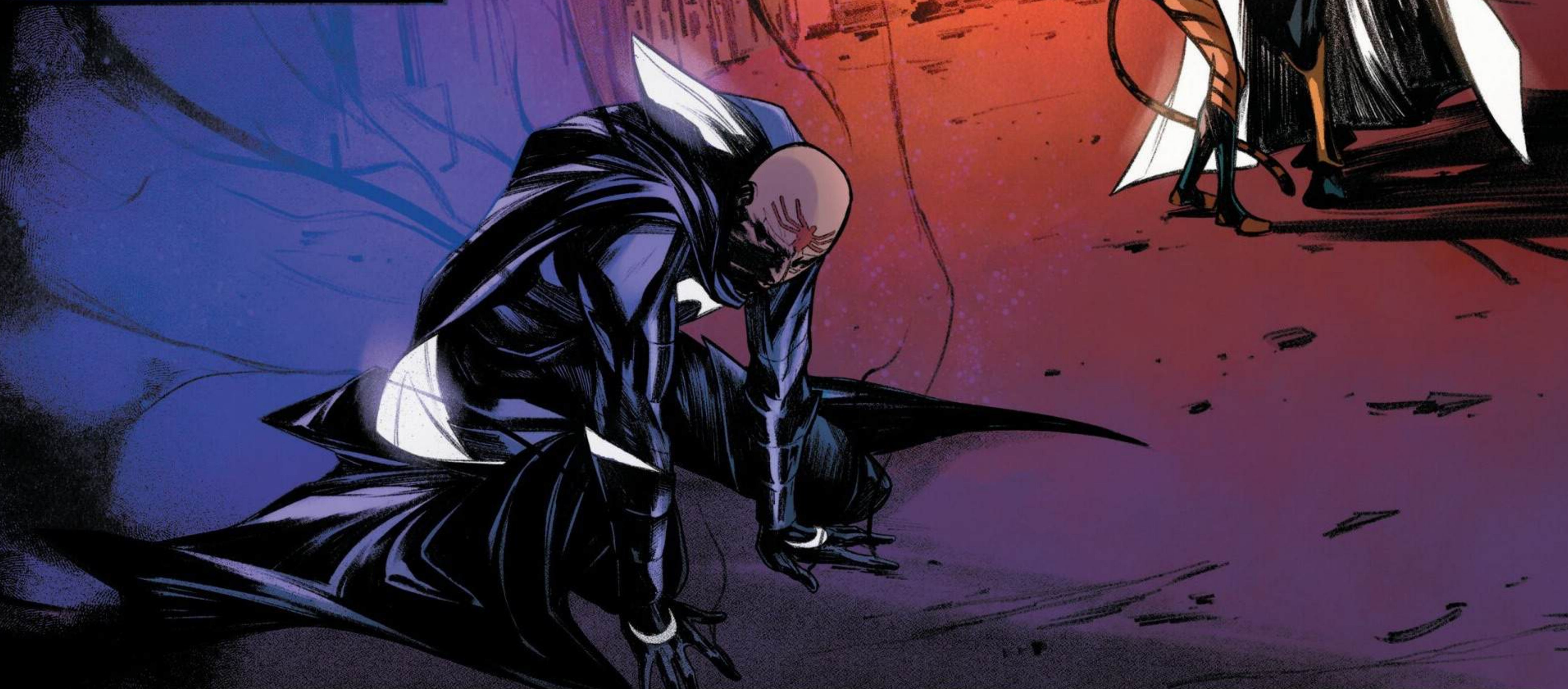
AND HE LEFT A **LEGACY**. ONE THAT HE **BUILT**. ONE THAT WE BUILT **WITH HIM**.



IT'S NOT YOURS, MAX. YOU **UNDERSTAND** THAT, DON'T YOU?



IF YOU
WANT IT TO
MEAN ANYTHING,
YOU NEED TO BUILD
YOUR OWN
LEGACY.



DO
WE...?

NO.

IT'S
OVER.



MAX.

WE CAN
HELP.

I KNOW
SOMEONE WHO
YOU CAN TALK
TO. SOMEONE WHO
HELPED MARC.
HELPED ALL
OF US.



TIGRA...
I THINK--
I NEED--

I'M SORRY,
I JUST WANTED
IT SO BADLY--



I KNOW,
MAX.

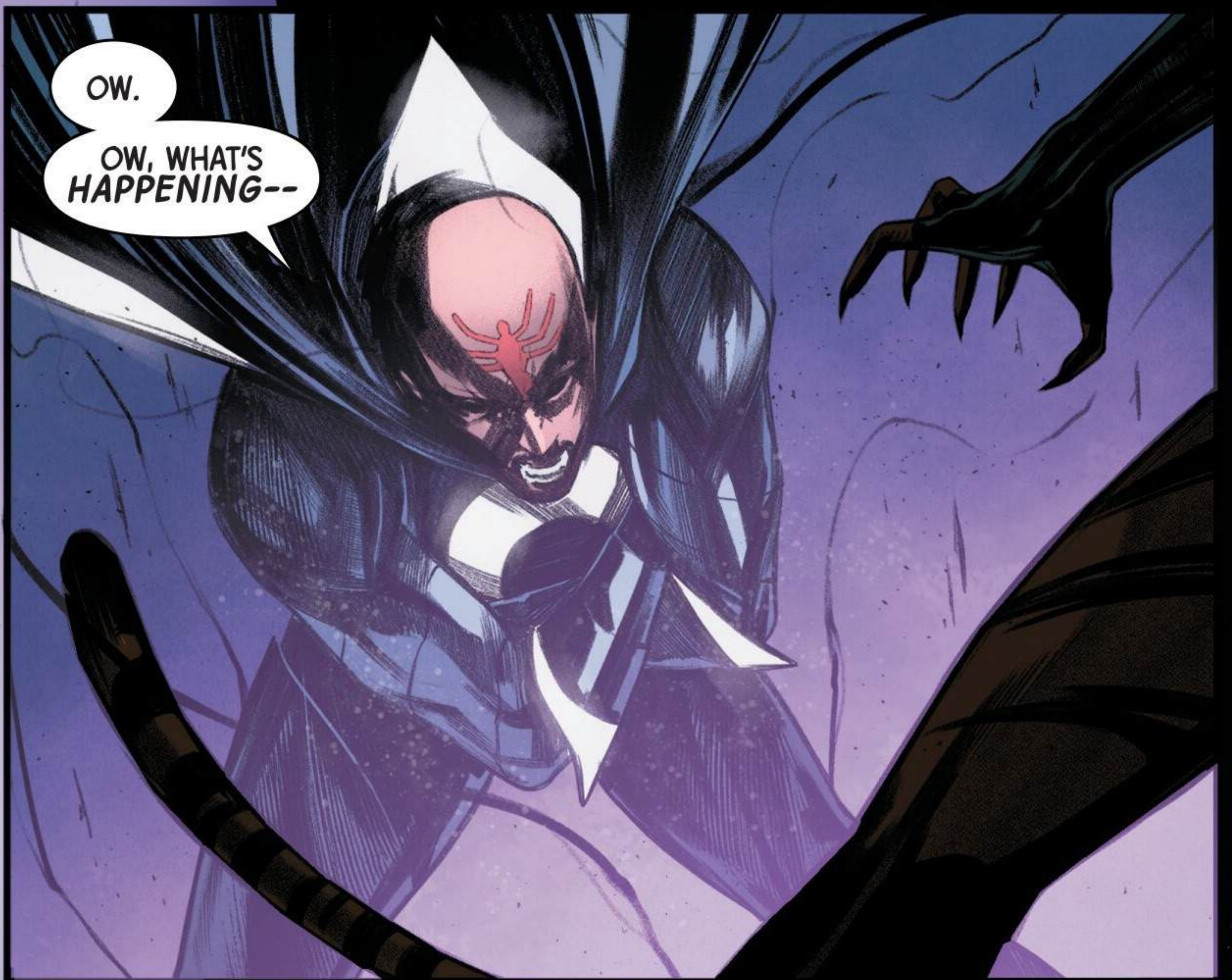
YOU JUST
WANTED TO BE
A HERO.



COME ON.
LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE.

OKAY.

OKAY--



OW.

OW, WHAT'S
HAPPENING--



MAX,
WHAT'S GOING
ON--

TIGRA, GET
BACK--



MAX!

CAN'T

CAN'T
CONTROL IT
ANYMORE



Two
of
us!



TO BE CONTINUED...IN
BLOOD HUNT

NOW.

"WHO'S
LOOKING AFTER
THE ONES LEFT
OUT THERE?"

THAT'S...

THAT'S
RIGHT. THAT'S
WHAT MOON
KNIGHT WOULD
THINK ABOUT,
ISN'T IT?



THE MIDNIGHT MISSION
ISN'T FOR PROTECTING
ME. MAKING SURE *I'M*
SAFE AND SOUND.

THE MIDNIGHT
MISSION IS FOR
THEM.

THAT'S
THE *POINT*
OF IT.

THAT'S
WHY HE BUILT
THIS.



HEY.
DOC.

YOU DON'T
GOT TO TELL ME
IF IT'S A, YOU KNOW,
DOCTOR-PATIENT
THING.

BUT...
*MOON
KNIGHT*.



WAS...

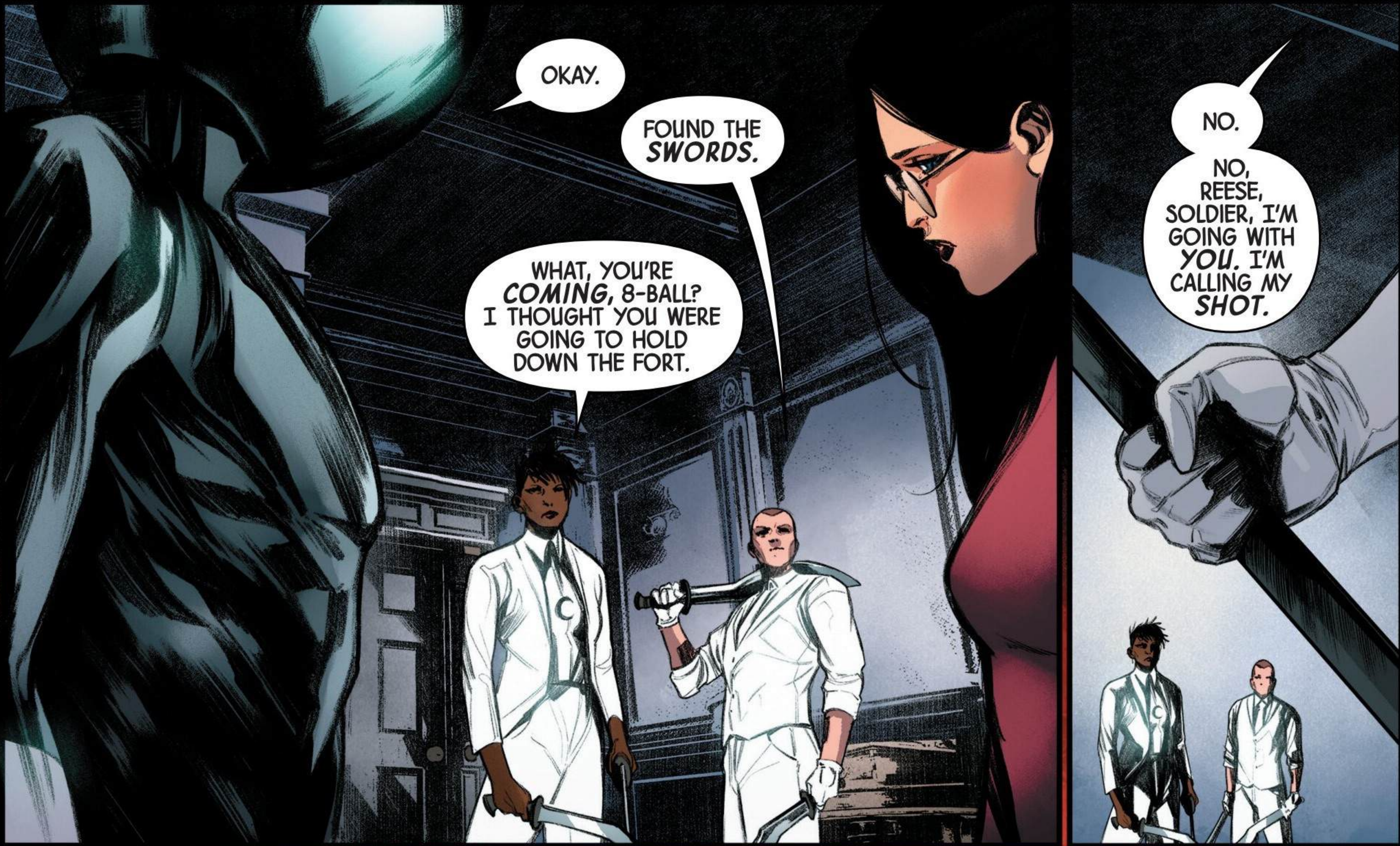
WAS
HE EVER
AFRAID?



ALMOST
ALL THE TIME,
8-BALL.

BUT HE NEVER
LET IT STOP HIM.
FOR BETTER OR
WORSE.





TIGRA'S VICTORY WAS SHORT-LIVED, AS THE DARKFORCE ENERGY FROM WHICH MAX'S POWERS ARE DERIVED EXPLODED FROM THE CONFINES OF HIS BODY AND HIS CONTROL. WITH DARKFORCE USERS THE WORLD OVER SUFFERING SIMILAR FATES, THE COMBINED ENERGIES FROM THEIR UNLEASHED ABILITIES BLOTED OUT THE SUN. NOW, WITH KHONSHU LOCKED AWAY IN AN ASGARDIAN PRISON AND THE WORLD TRAPPED IN A SEEMINGLY ETERNAL NIGHT, VAMPIRES HAVE DESCENDED UPON THE CITY, AND IT'S UP TO THE MIDNIGHT MISSION TO SAVE EVERYONE THEY CAN.



**NEW YORK CITY.
MIDNIGHT MISSION
TERRITORY.**

"HERE'S WHAT'S
GOING ON, AS BEST
AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

"THE SKY WENT
DARK...AND THEN
THE **VAMPIRES**
CAME OUT.

"AN ARMY OF THEM.
RUNNING WILD ON
THE STREETS **HERE...**
AND THE **REST** OF
THE WORLD TOO.

"THAT'S THE
BAD NEWS."



WHAT'S--
WHAT'S
THE **GOOD**
NEWS?

THE **GOOD**
NEWS?

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE MIDNIGHT MISSION REMAINS.

AND WE'VE GOT VAMPIRES OF OUR OWN.

I'M REESE, THIS IS SOLDIER, AND THE WEIRDO IS 8-BALL. WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE.

COME ON, LET'S GET YOU TO SAFETY.





VAMPIRES?!

YOU'RE ONE OF THEM!



YEAH, OKAY, I *AM* A VAMPIRE.

BUT I'M ON *YOUR* SIDE--



BLAM



SON OF A--

GET *BACK*, REESE, I'M KICKING THE DOOR DOWN.



SOLDIER,
STOP.

REESE,
LET ME
GO--

STOP.

WE CAN'T
MAKE HIM COME
WITH US.

HE'LL
DIE IF WE
LEAVE HIM!

MAYBE.
MAYBE
NOT.

THINK.
WE'RE **VAMPIRES**.
IN A **VAMPIRE**
APOCALYPSE.

THE *MINUTE*
WE'RE SEEN
DRAWING SOMEONE
KICKING AND
SCREAMING FROM THEIR
HOME, THAT'S THE
MINUTE PEOPLE STOP
TRUSTING US.

AND
THEN THAT'S
IT.



FORGET
SILVER BLADES,
STAKES,
WHATEVER.

IT'S
TRUST THAT'S OUR
MOST IMPORTANT
WEAPON.

WITHOUT
THAT?

A WHOLE
LOT **MORE** PEOPLE
DIE, BECAUSE THEY
WON'T TRUST US TO
HELP THEM.

WE'VE GOT
OTHERS TO
LOOK OUT
FOR.



"VAMPIRES.

"THAT'S HOW I GOT INTO WHATEVER THE HELL MY LIFE IS NOW.



"A YEAR OR TWO AGO, A VAMPIRIC PYRAMID-SCHEME CULT CALLED THE **STRUCTURE** SNATCHED ME AND A FEW OTHERS. **TURNED US.**

"TRIED TO MAKE US LIKE **THEY** WERE, A PART OF THEIR **ORGANIZATION.**



"**HE** FOUND ME BEFORE THAT COULD HAPPEN.



"**MOON KNIGHT.**



"HE SAVED ME. SPARED ME. GAVE ME A JOB."

CONTACT!



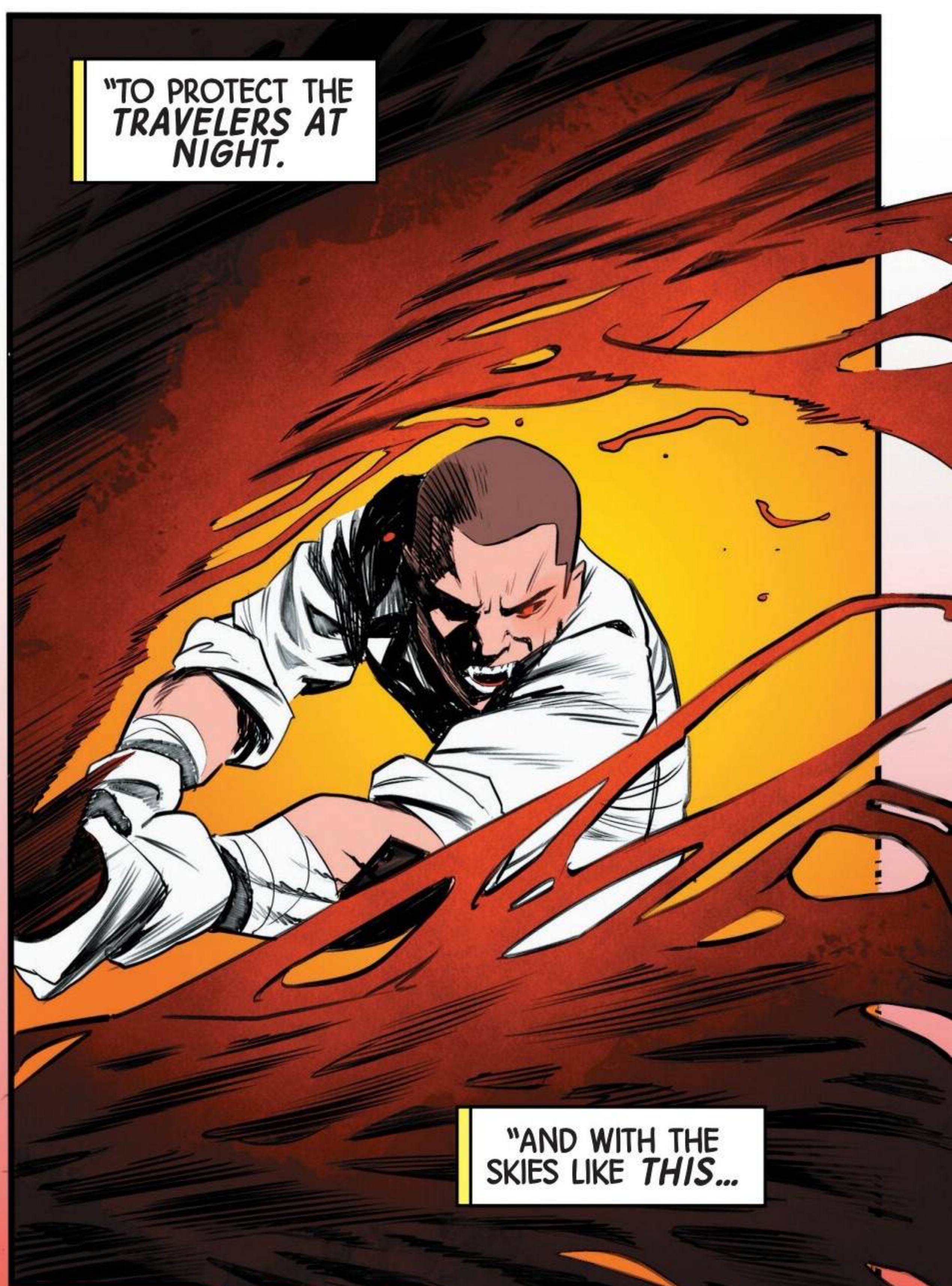
"GAVE ME THE MISSION."

FEED THEM SOME SILVER.



"HE'S DEAD NOW."

"BUT HE LEFT US HIS *BLADES* AND HIS NEED TO *USE* THEM."



"TO PROTECT THE TRAVELERS AT NIGHT."

"AND WITH THE SKIES LIKE *THIS*..."



"...WE'RE ALL TRAVELERS AT NIGHT."



YOU'RE
LIKE *US*!

WHY
ARE YOU
PROTECTING
THE PREY--

"SOLDIER WASN'T
TURNED LIKE *I* WAS.

"HE WAS INFECTED WHEN A
BULLET I TRIED TO STOP WITH
MY OWN BODY PUNCHED RIGHT
THROUGH *ME* AND INTO *HIM*.

BECAUSE
WE'RE NOTHING
LIKE YOU.

"THE...*CONDITION*
NEVER *BOTHERED*
HIM LIKE IT HAS ME.

THEN YOU'RE
TRAITORS...

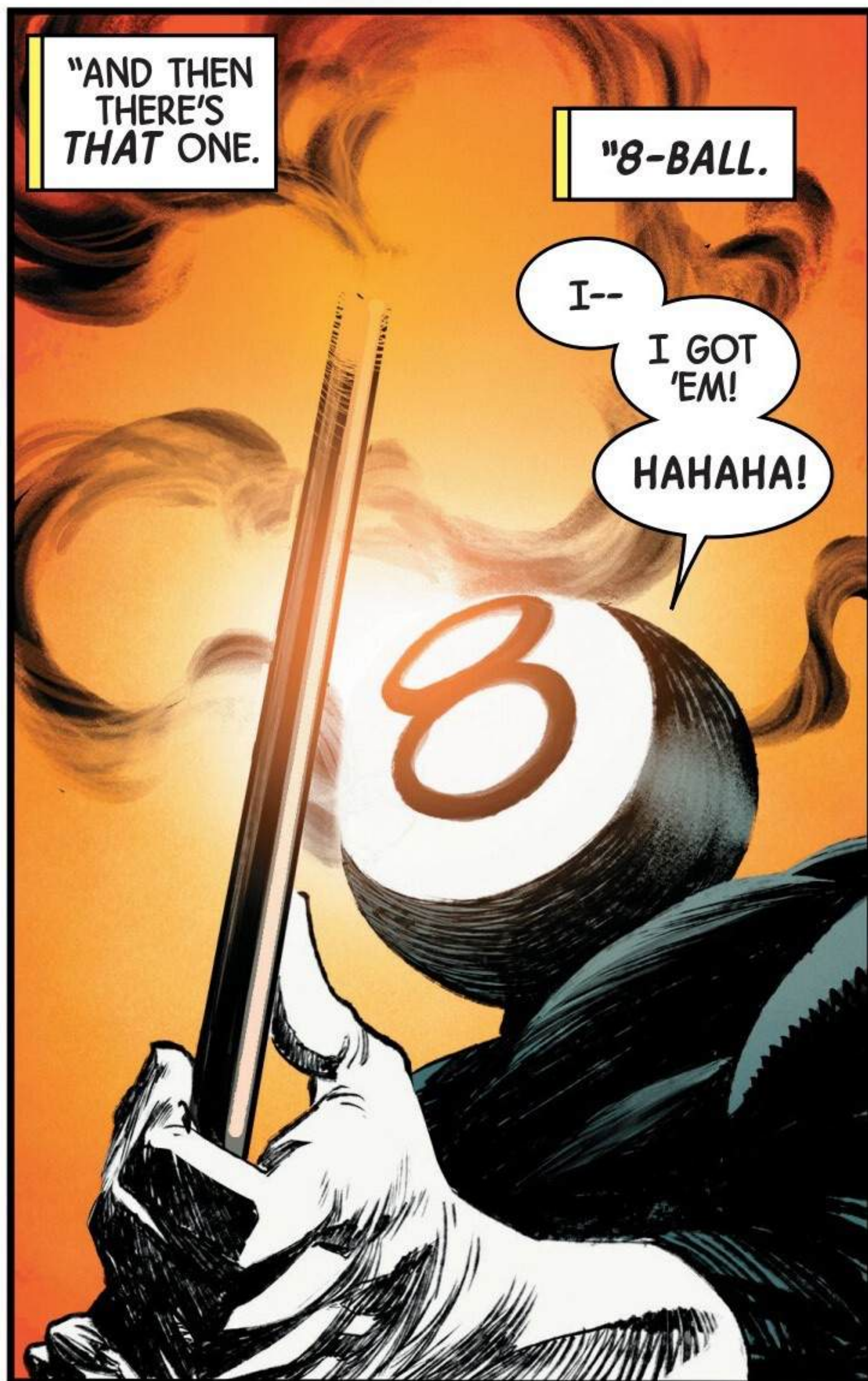
...AND THERE'S
NO PLACE FOR
TRAITORS IN THE
NEW WORLD!

"AS FAR AS *HE'S*
CONCERNED, IT
JUST MAKES HIM
BETTER AT HIS *JOB*.

"ANOTHER SACRIFICE
AS A SOLDIER OF THE
MIDNIGHT MISSION.

"AND THERE'S
NOTHING
SOLDIER WOULDN'T
SACRIFICE FOR
THE MISSION.

KA-BLAMMM



"AND THEN THERE'S THAT ONE."

"8-BALL."

I--

I GOT 'EM!

HAHAHA!



"LOSER SUPER-CRIMINAL TURNED MIDNIGHT MISSION CONVERT."

LET'S GO!

THERE'RE MORE COMING!



"AND KEEPING US TOGETHER, THE PLACE MOON KNIGHT BUILT--"



"--THE MIDNIGHT MISSION."

IS THERE ROOM FOR ALL OF US?

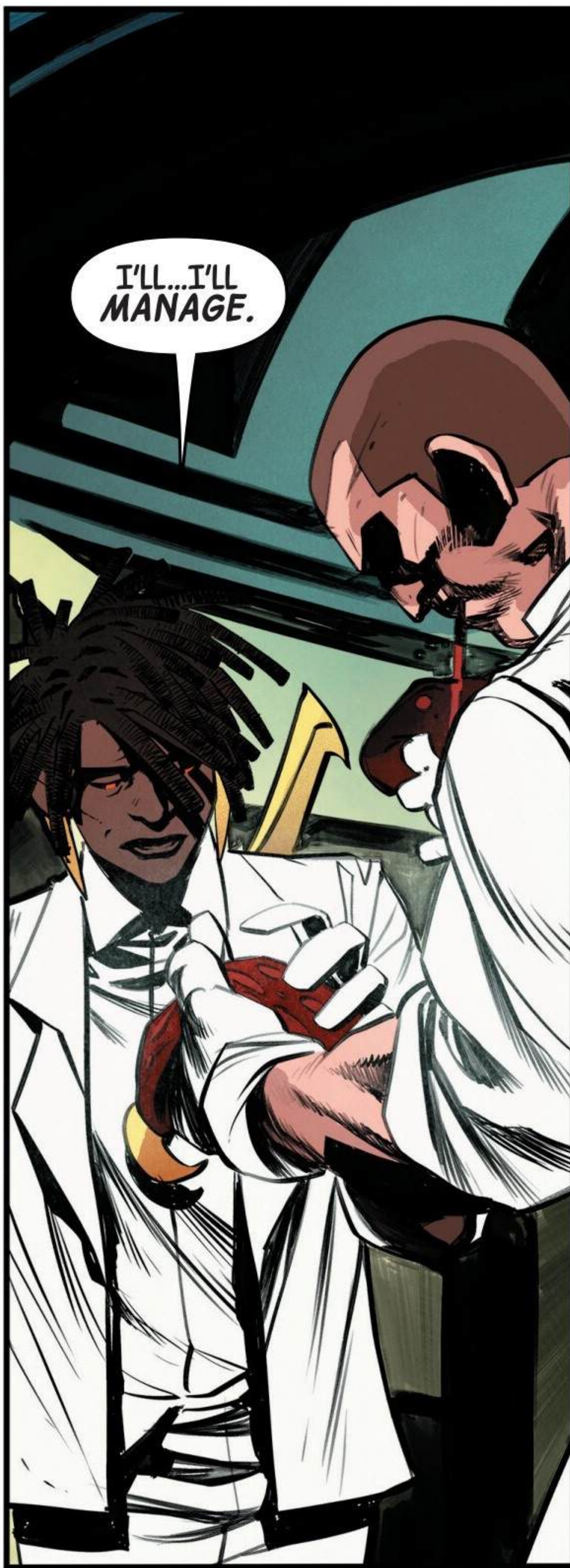




YOU GOOD?
WE'VE GOT TO
HEAD OUT
AGAIN.

I'LL MANAGE.
SOLDIER'S MOTHER
HAS BEEN A GREAT
HELP.

ARE *YOU*
GOOD?



I'LL...I'LL
MANAGE.



"I DON'T GET TIRED
ANYMORE, NOT REALLY.

"I JUST GET
HUNGRY.

ALL
RIGHT.

KEEP
EVERYONE
INSIDE, AND THE
MISSION WILL
KEEP YOU
SAFE.



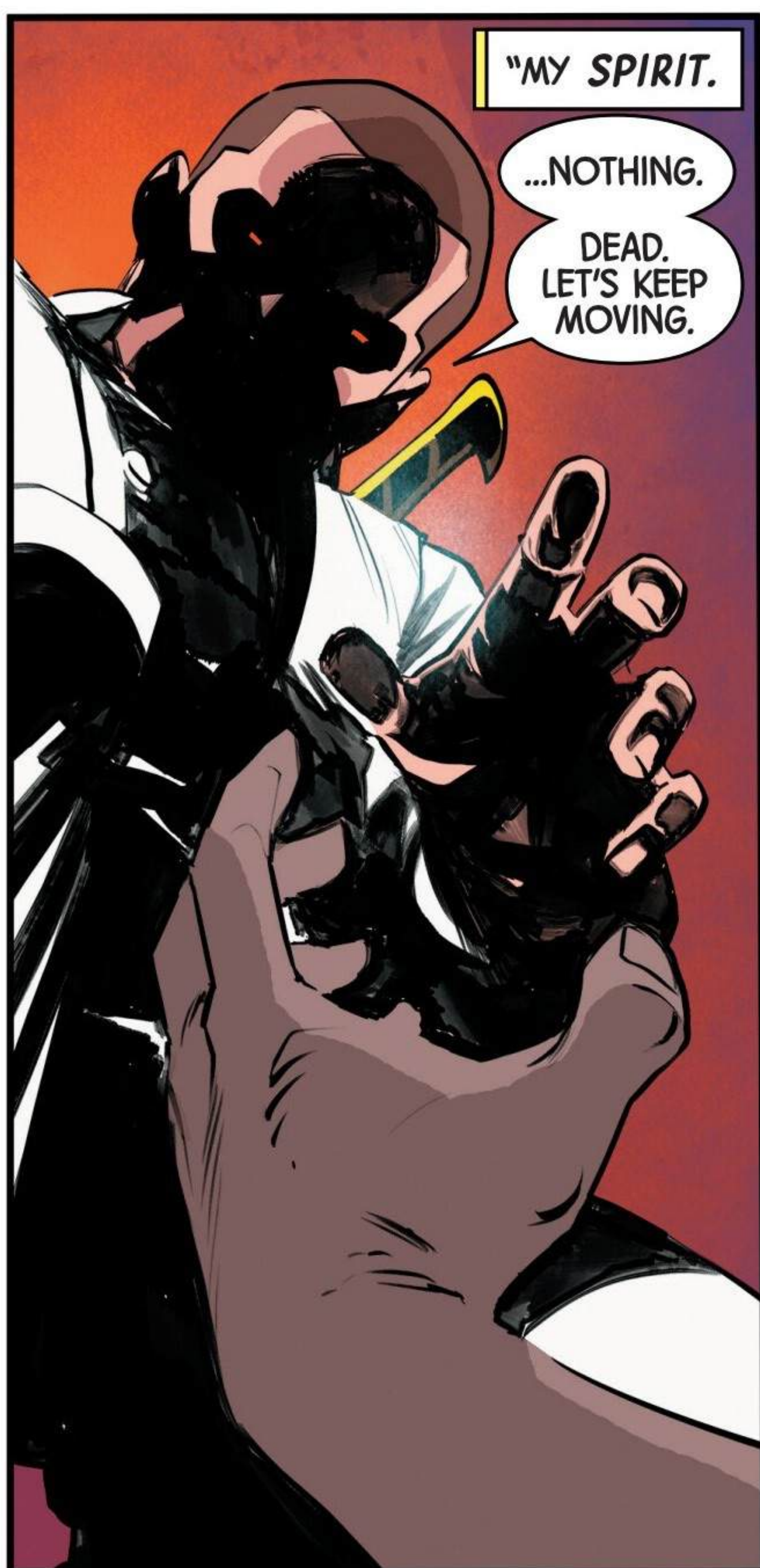
"AS LONG AS I HAVE
BLOOD, MY BODY CAN GO
AS LONG AS IT HAS TO.

LET'S
GO.

Seve

Fash

West 36th St





OH
GOD.

I--
DAMN
IT, I--



REESE!

REESE, YOU
OKAY?

"I ONLY BREATHE
SO I CAN TALK.

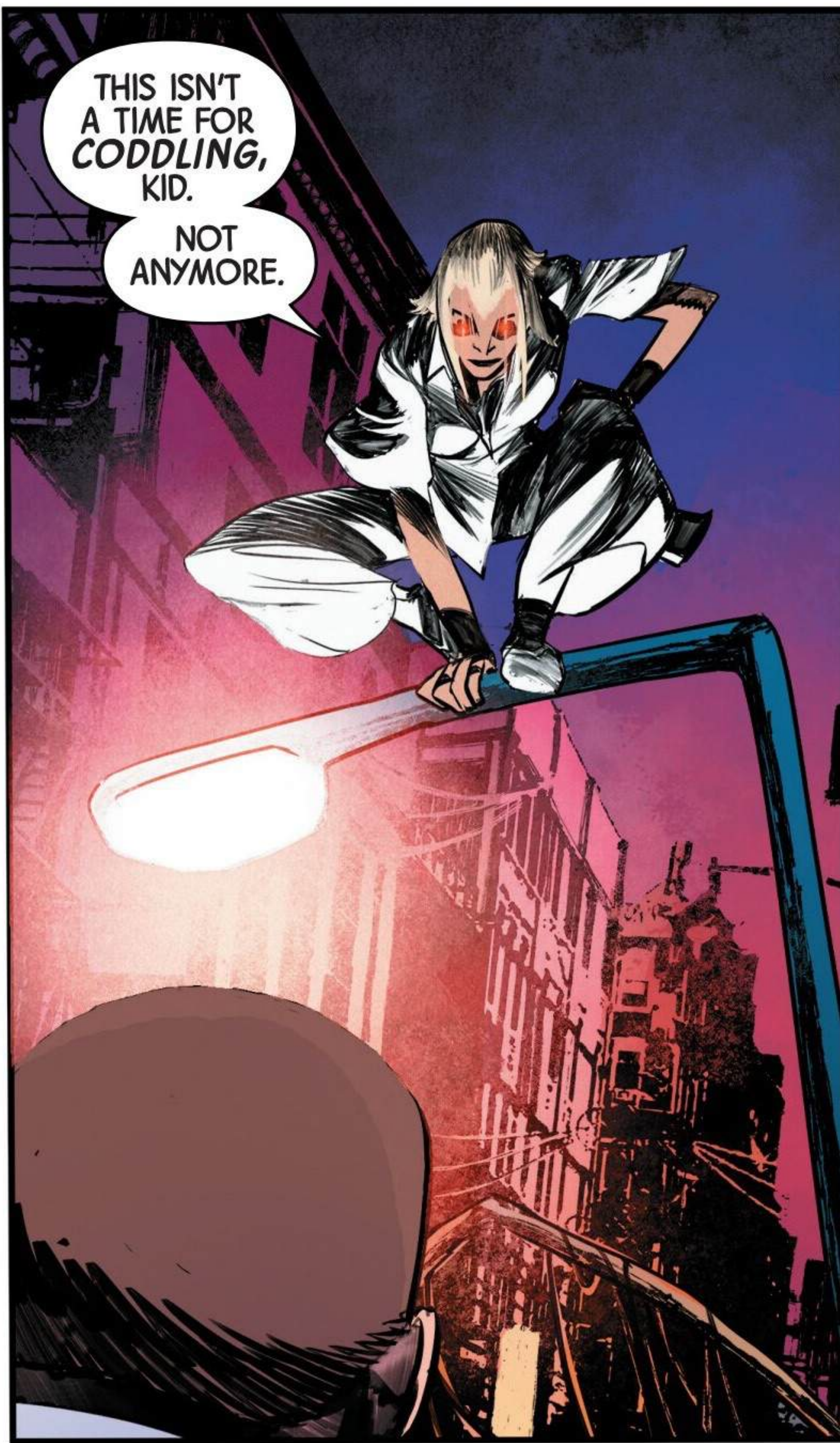
"I'VE FORGOTTEN
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO
HAVE A HEARTBEAT.



NOT NOW,
DAMN IT. NOT
NOW--

"BUT ALL THAT
DOESN'T MATTER.

"ALL YOU NEED TO
HAVE A **PANIC ATTACK**
IS A **BRAIN** AND A
SURPLUS OF **STRESS**.





THIS IS
A WORLD FOR
MONSTERS.

AND IF YOU
OR I ARE GOING
TO SURVIVE, WE'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO GET
USED TO **BEING**
MONSTERS.



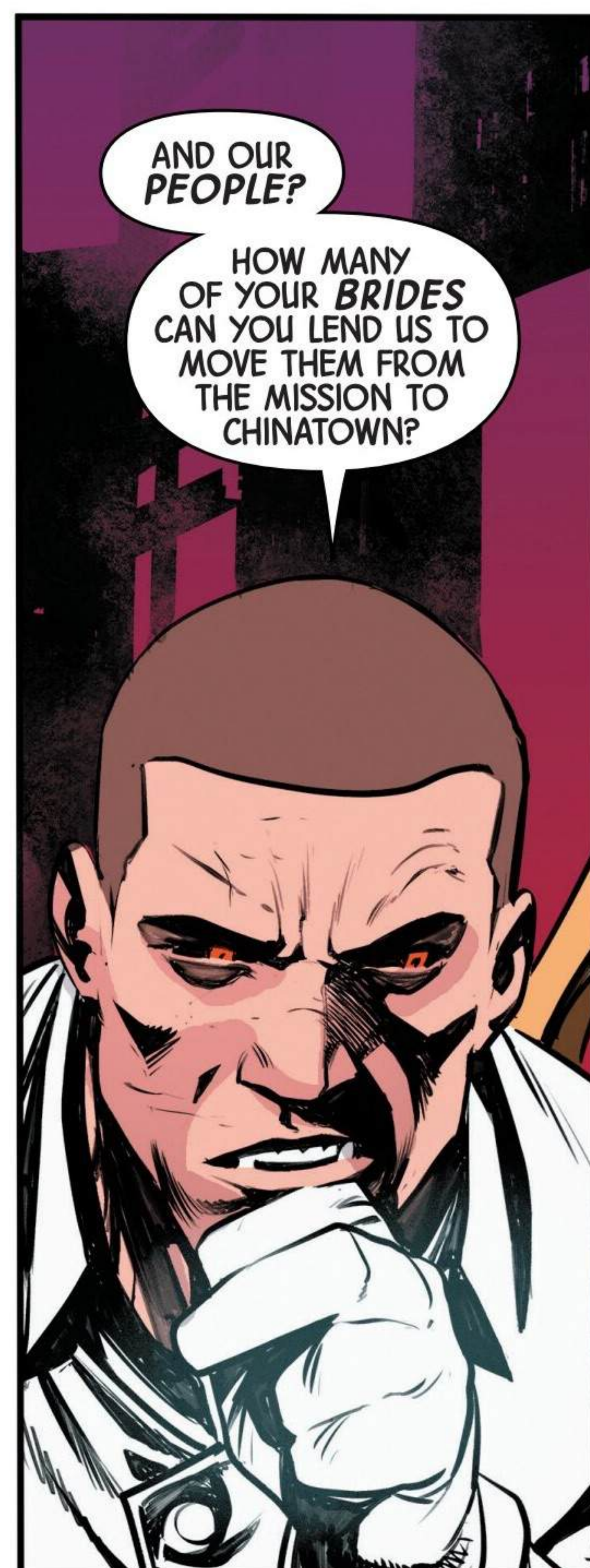
YOU TRACKED
US DOWN TO TELL
US THAT?



NO.

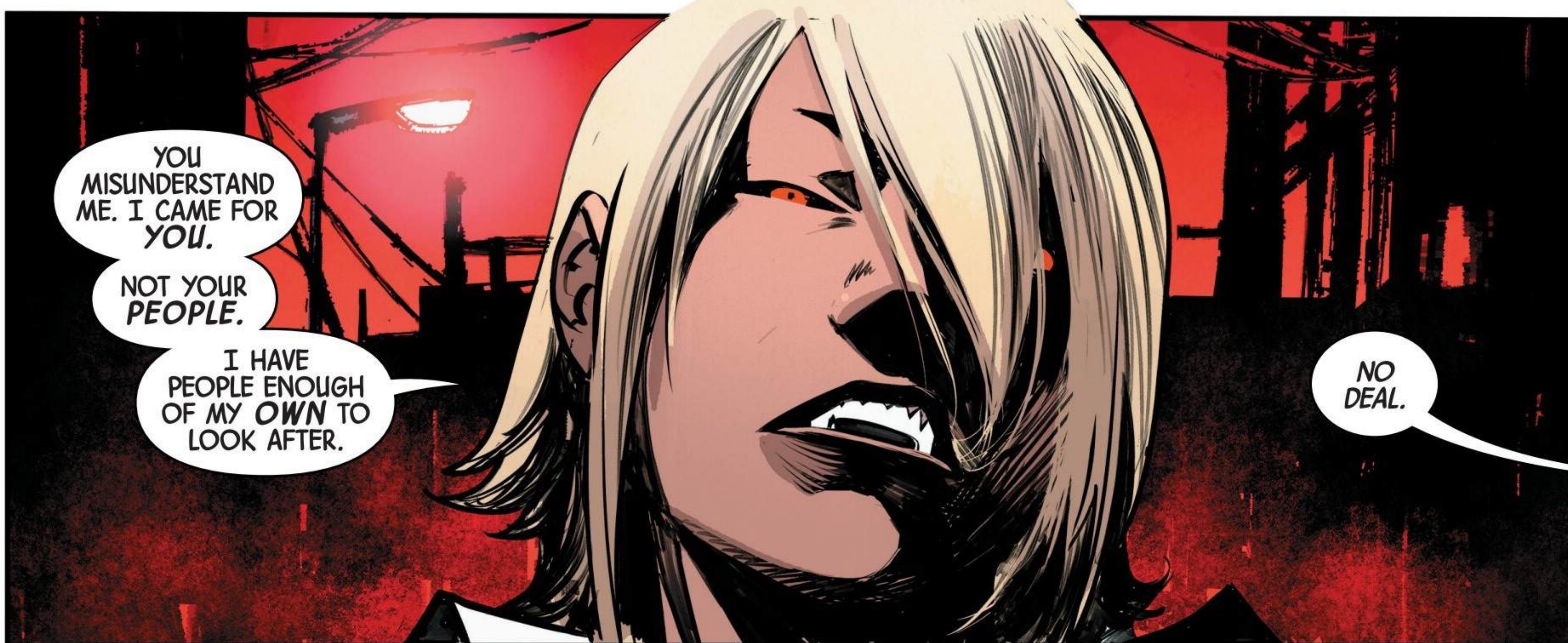
TO TELL
YOU THIS: I'VE
LOCKED DOWN
CHINATOWN.
IT'S **MINE.**

YOU TWO
ARE OF **MY**
BLOODLINE,
THE **ONLY TWO**
OUTSIDE OF
CHINATOWN. THERE
IS A PLACE
FOR YOU.



AND OUR
PEOPLE?

HOW MANY
OF YOUR **BRIDES**
CAN YOU LEND US TO
MOVE THEM FROM
THE MISSION TO
CHINATOWN?



YOU
MISUNDERSTAND
ME. I CAME FOR
YOU.

NOT YOUR
PEOPLE.

I HAVE
PEOPLE ENOUGH
OF MY **OWN** TO
LOOK AFTER.

NO DEAL.



SCREW
OFF BACK TO
CHINATOWN,
YULAN.

MOON
KNIGHT NEVER
LEFT ANYONE
BEHIND.

WE DON'T
EITHER.



YEAH?
AND HOW DID
THAT WORK OUT
FOR MOON
KNIGHT?

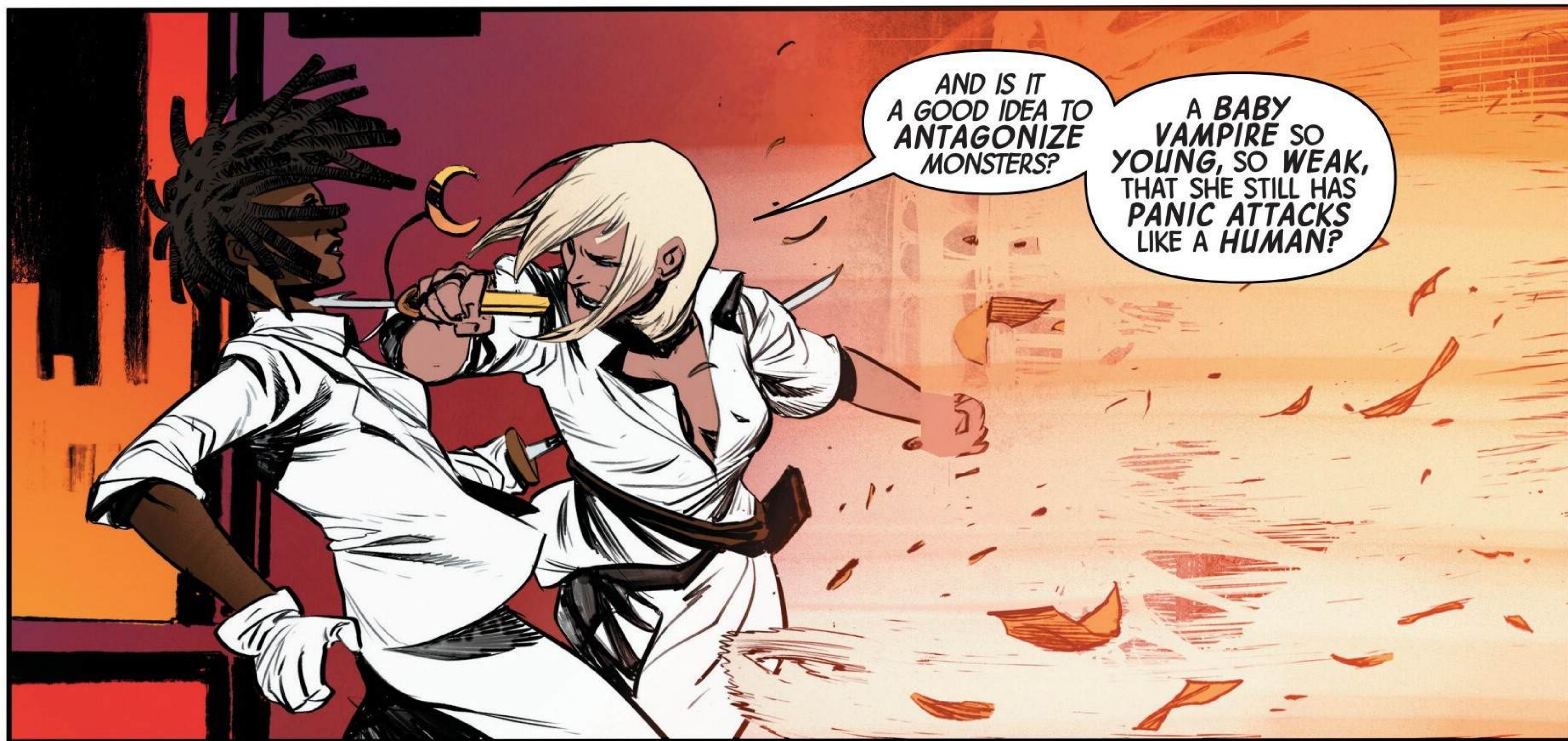
HE
DIED.

BUT HE
DIED A *HERO*.
DIED SAVING
THIS CITY.



CHINATOWN
INCLUDED.

HE DIED A
HERO SO YOU
COULD LIVE AS A
MONSTER.



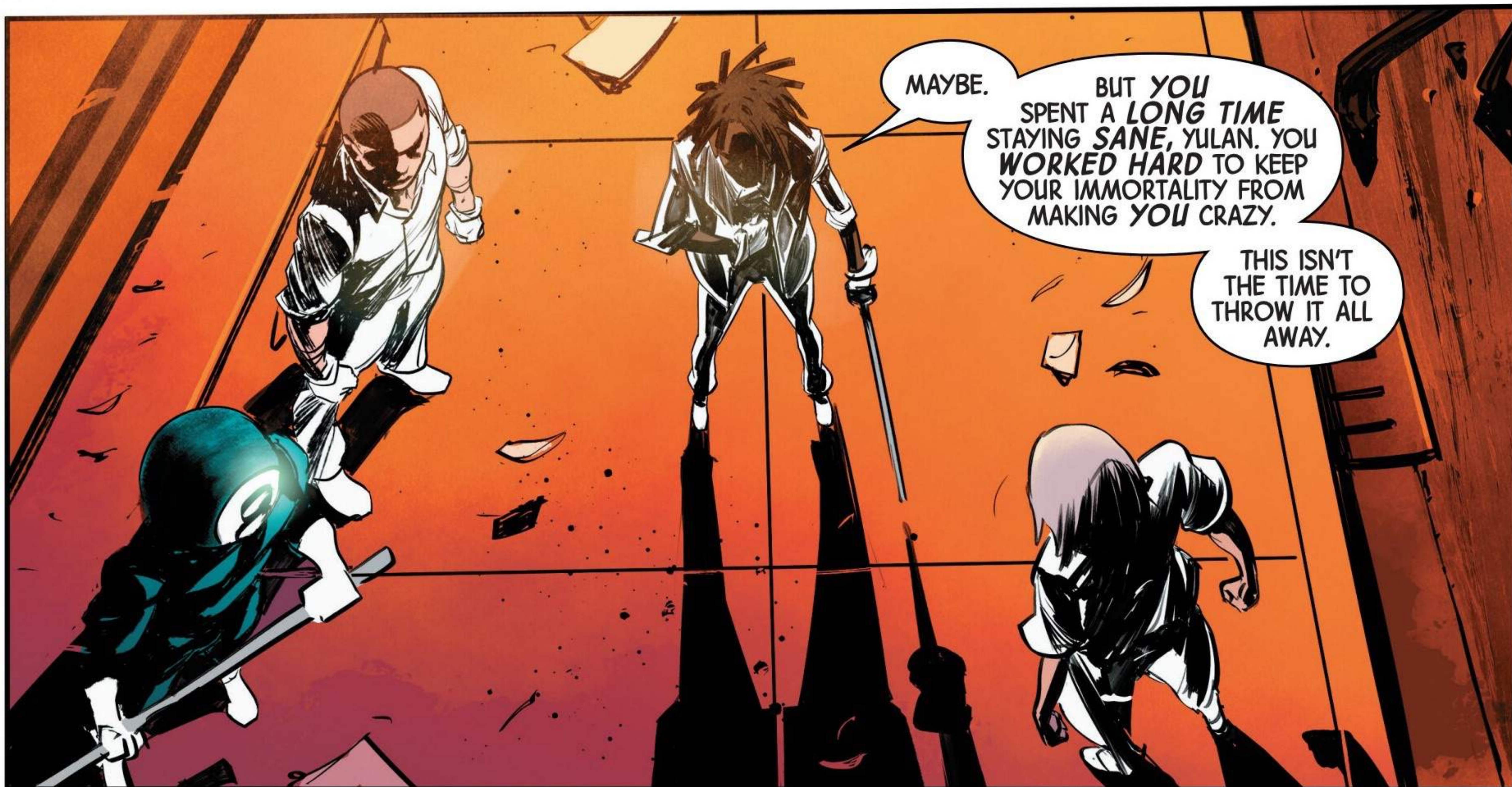
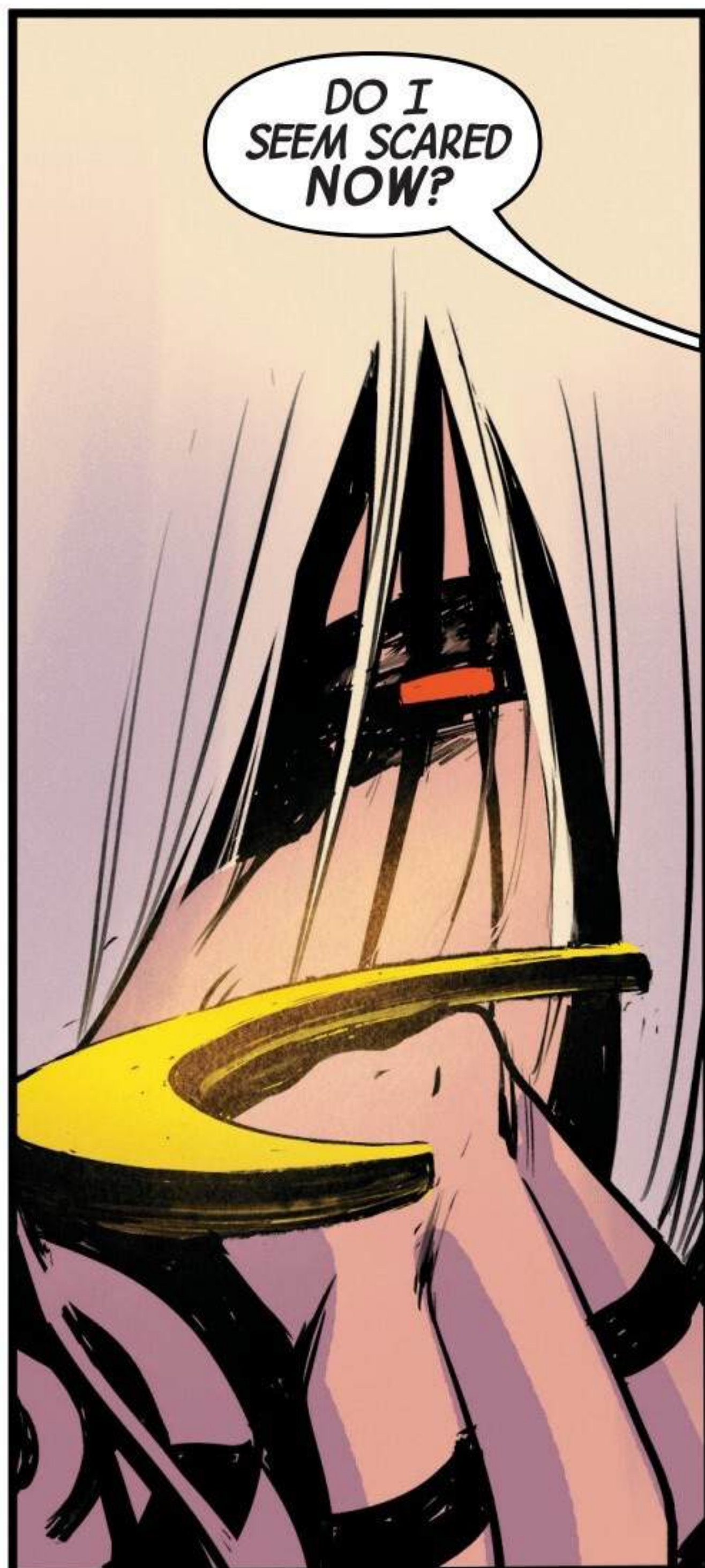
AND IS IT
A GOOD IDEA TO
ANTAGONIZE
MONSTERS?

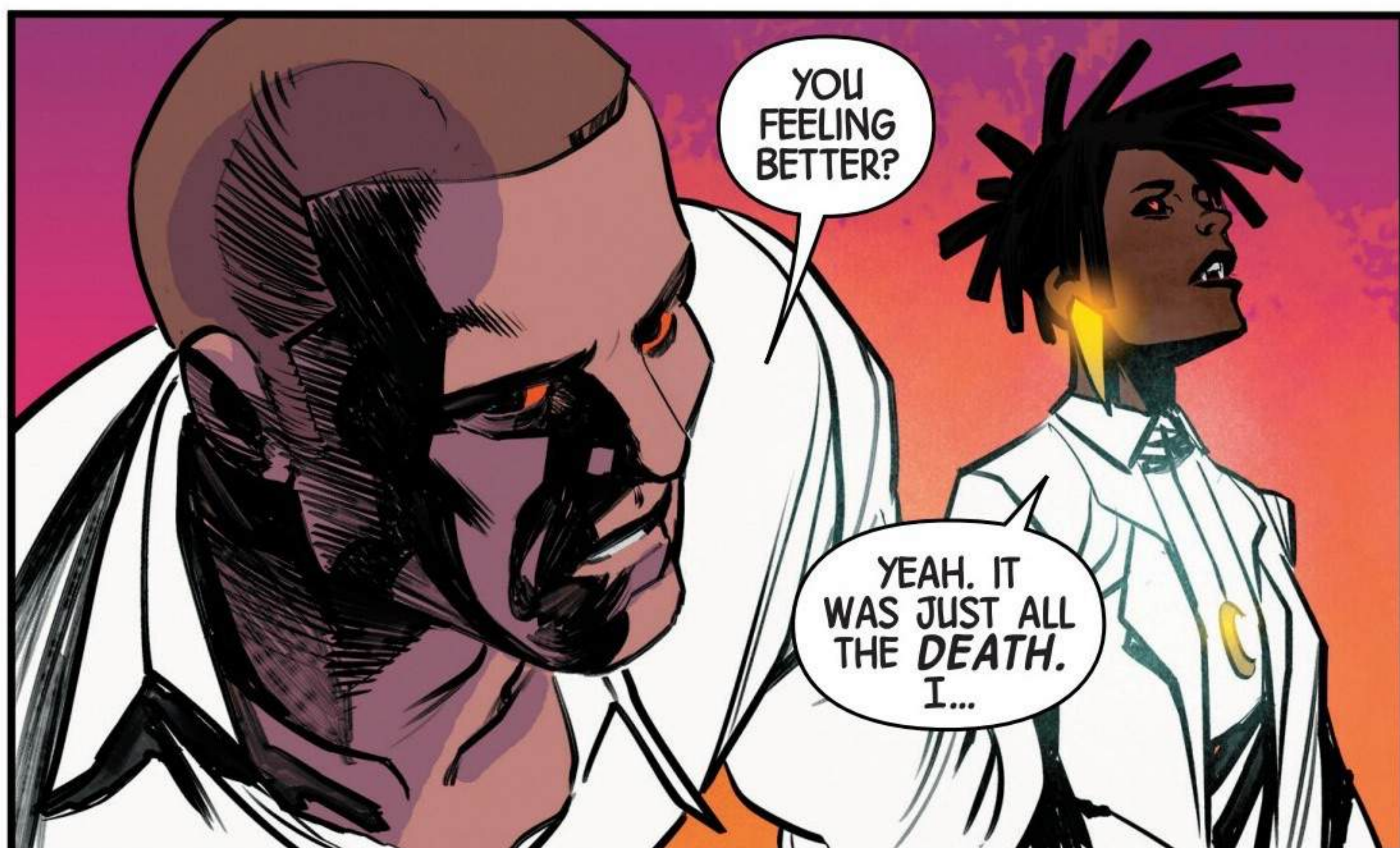
A *BABY*
VAMPIRE SO
YOUNG, SO WEAK,
THAT SHE STILL HAS
PANIC ATTACKS
LIKE A *HUMAN*?

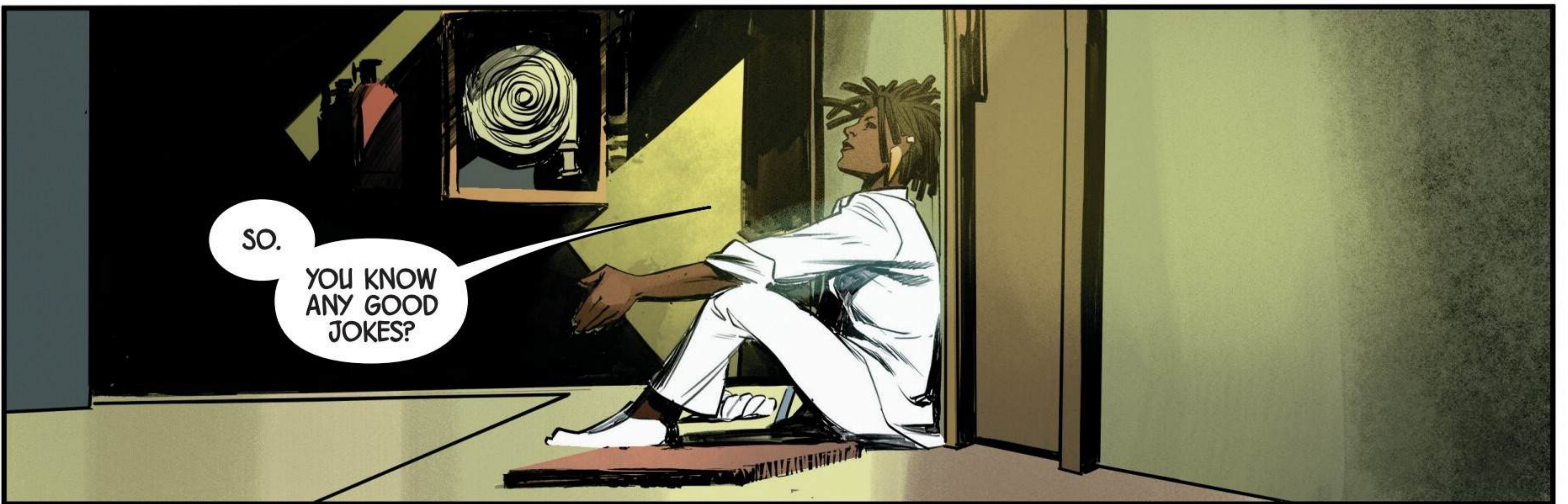
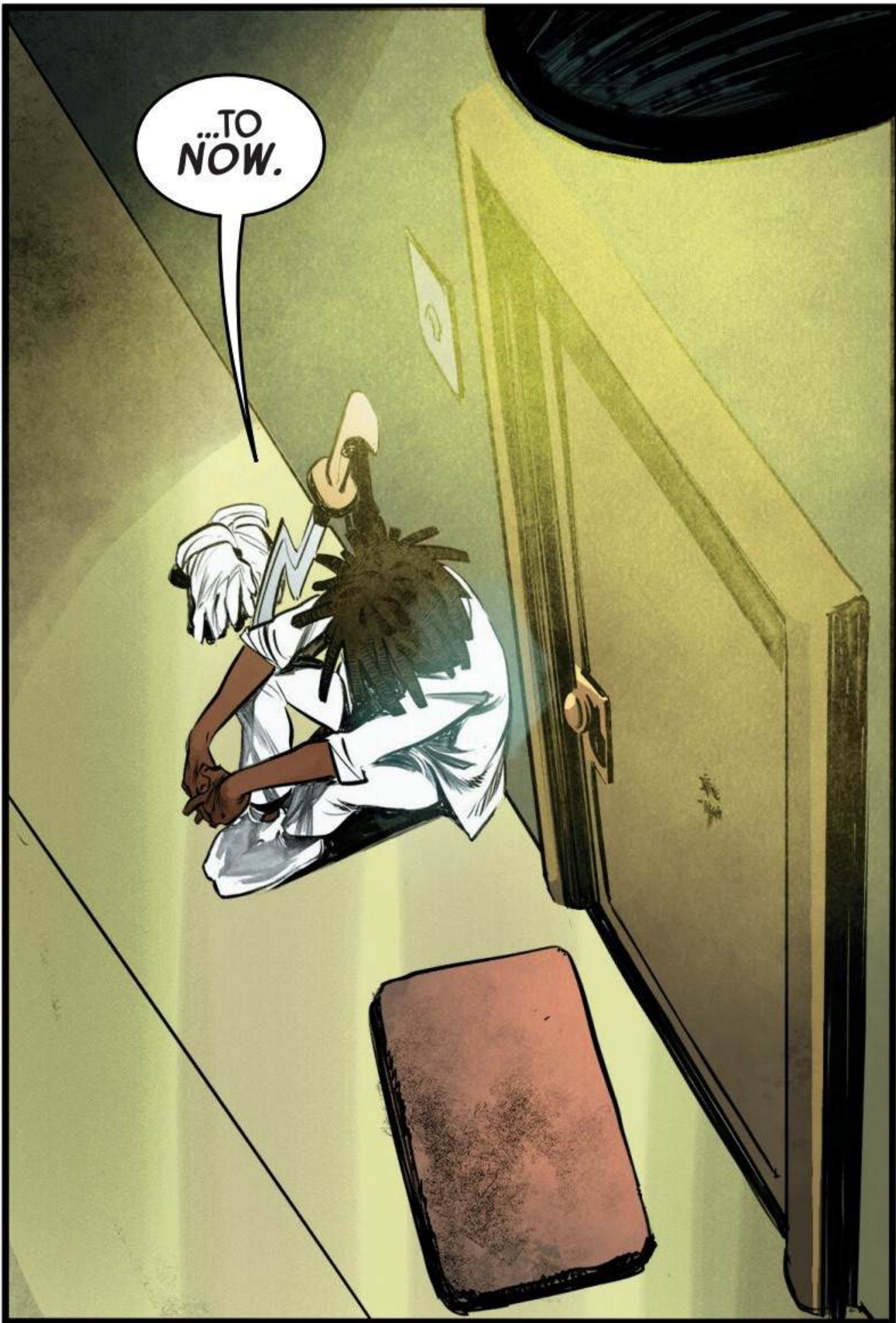


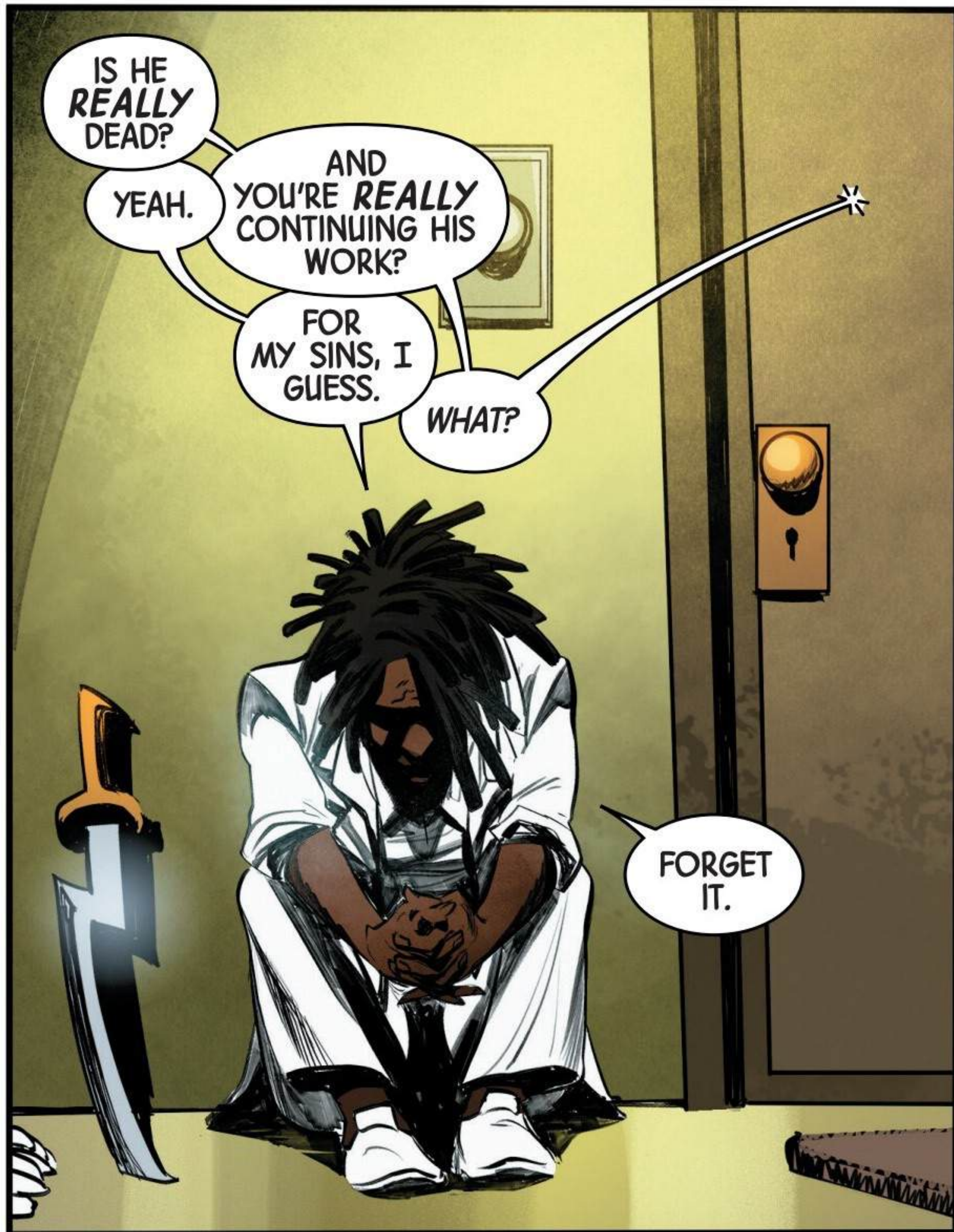
AM I
STUTTERING
NOW,
YULAN?

AN IMMORTAL
ASSASSIN'S *BLADE*
AT MY NECK, AM I
PANICKING
NOW?





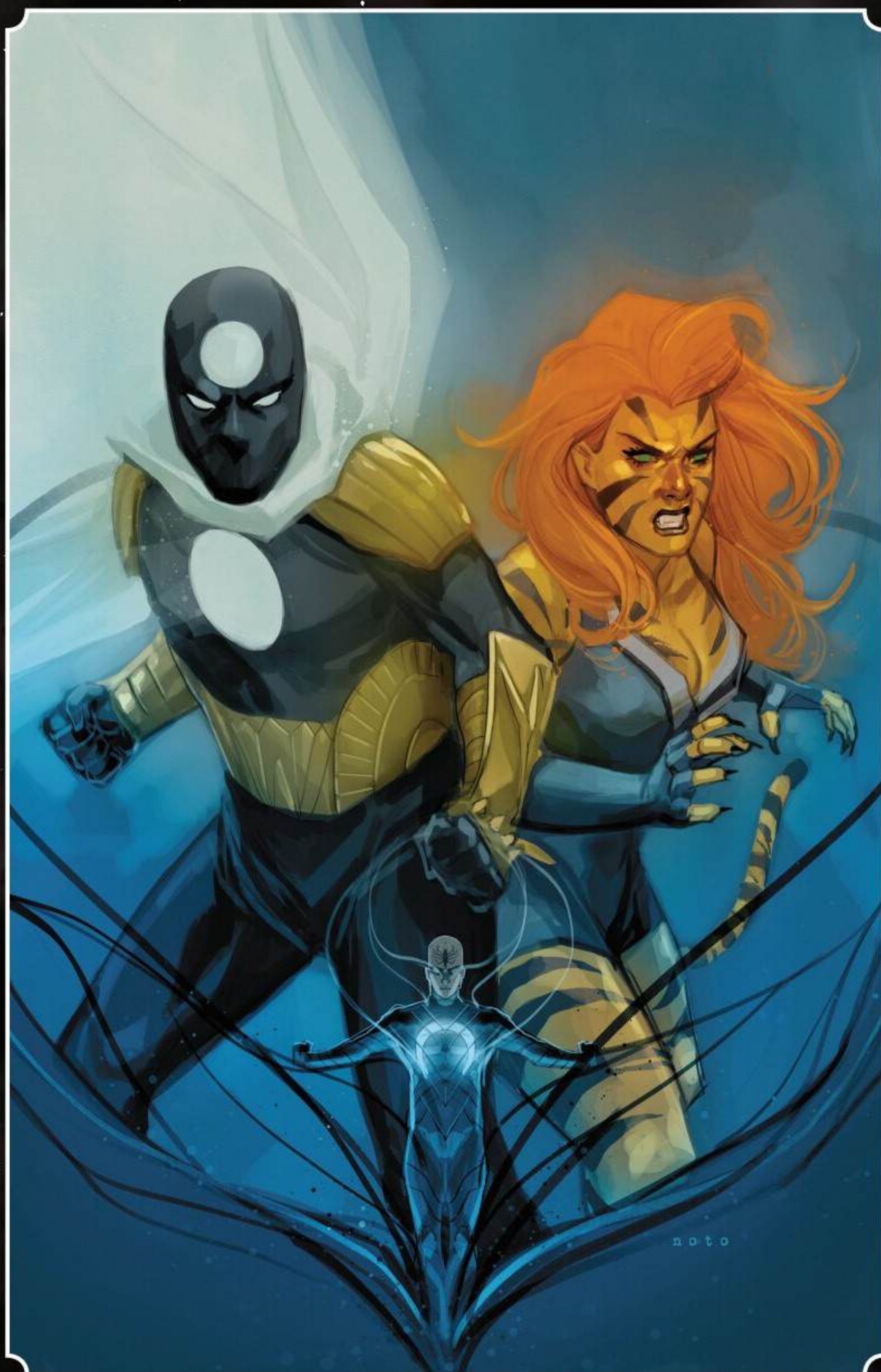




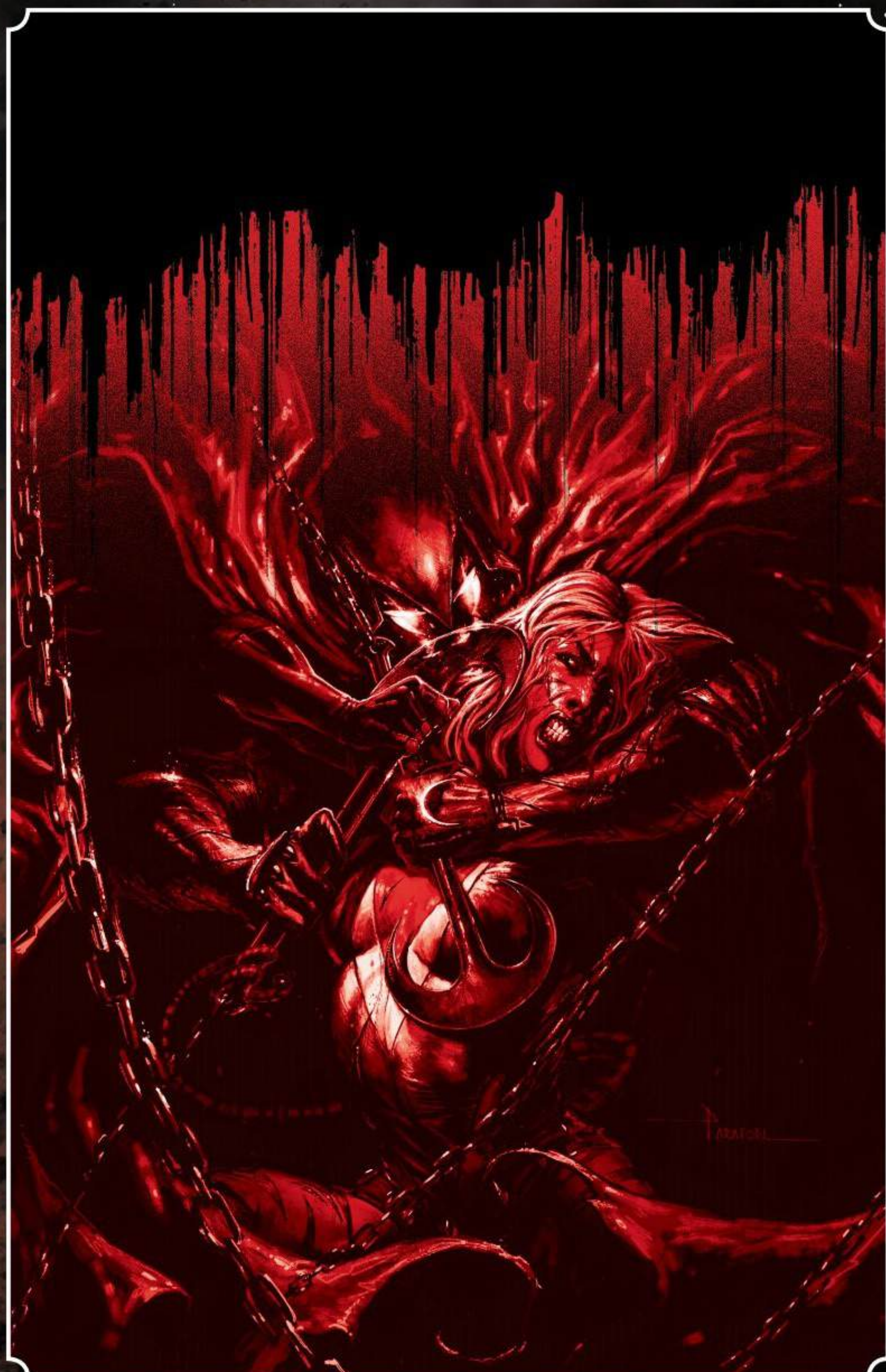




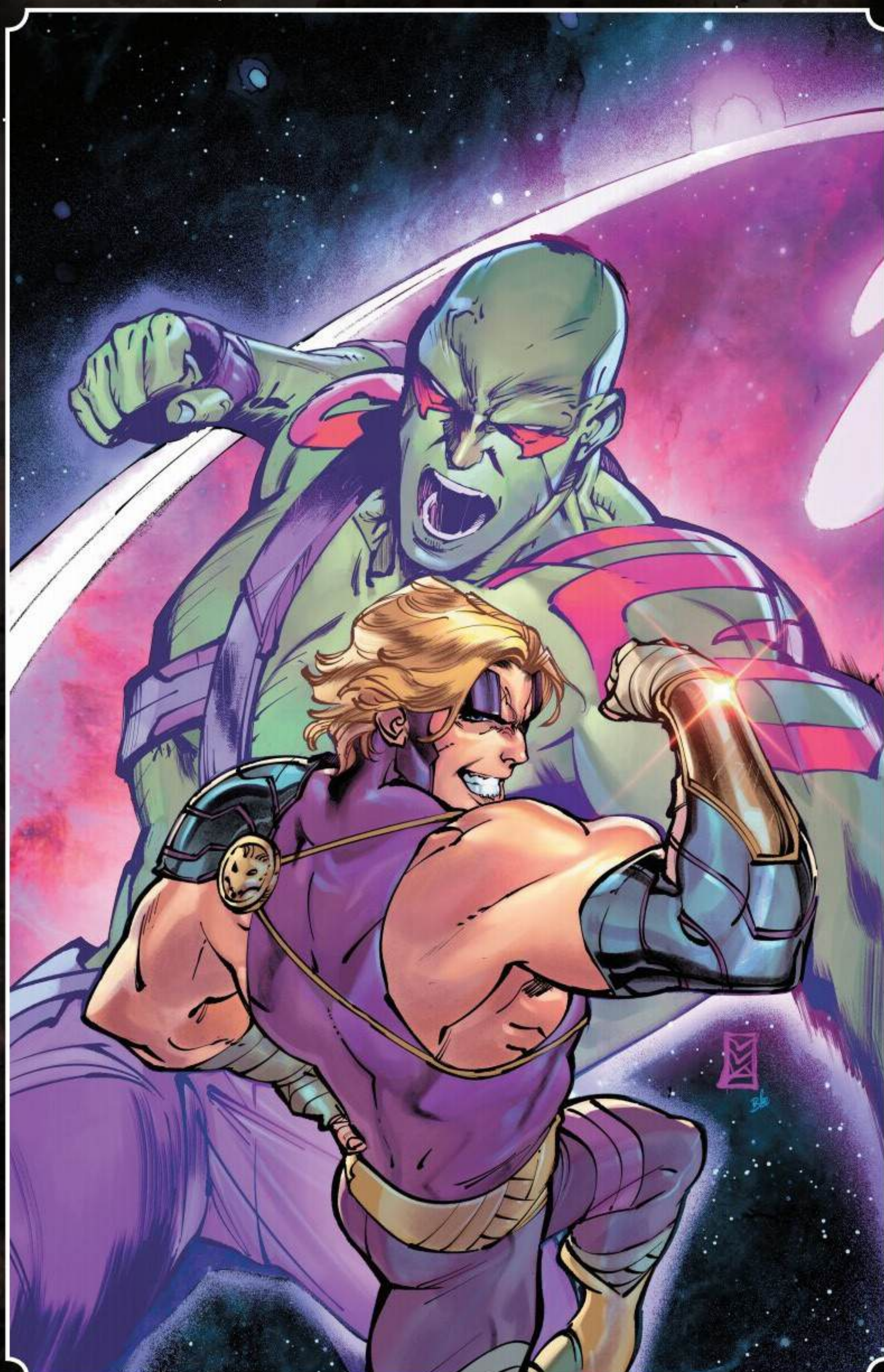
#5 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY MARTIN COCCOLO & JESUS ABURTOV



#5 VARIANT BY PHIL NOTO



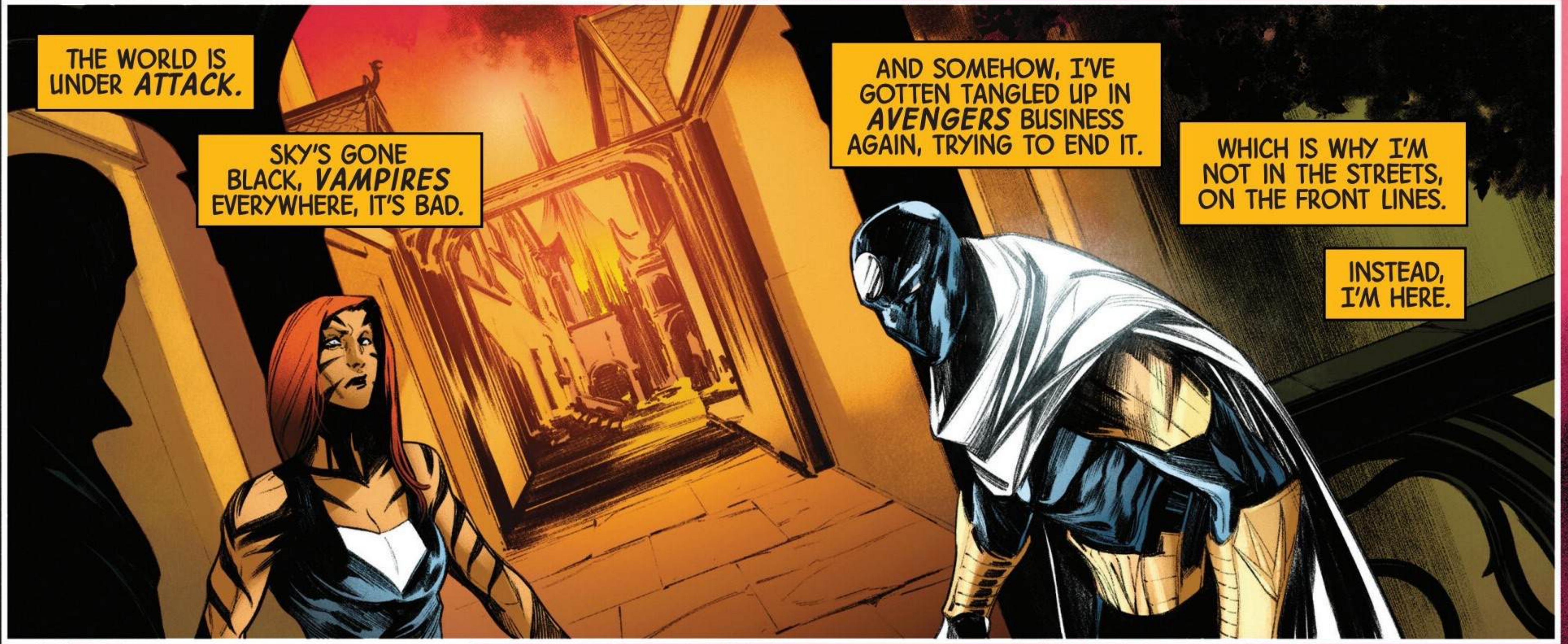
#5 2ND-PRINTING BLOOD-SOAKED VARIANT BY DAVIDE PARATORE



#6 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY C.F. VILLA & FEDERICO BLEE

HUNTER'S MOON AND TIGRA HAVE BEEN RECRUITED BY THE AVENGERS TO FORMULATE A WAY TO FIGHT THE VAMPIRES EN MASSE. TOGETHER, THE TWO OF THEM HAVE BRAINSTORMED A DÉSPERATE PLAN TO TRY TO TURN THE TIDES... NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO SEE THEIR GAMBLE THROUGH AND HOPE IT PAYS OFF.





THE WORLD IS UNDER **ATTACK**.

SKY'S GONE BLACK, **VAMPIRES** EVERYWHERE, IT'S BAD.

AND SOMEHOW, I'VE GOTTEN TANGLED UP IN **AVENGERS** BUSINESS AGAIN, TRYING TO END IT.

WHICH IS WHY I'M NOT IN THE STREETS, ON THE FRONT LINES.

INSTEAD, I'M HERE.

IN **ASGARD**.

UNINVITED.

YOU OKAY, HUNTER'S MOON?

MY LIFE WAS IRREVOCABLY ALTERED WHEN I ACCEPTED THAT **ONE** GOD WAS REAL, TIGRA.

I AM NOW LOOKING OVER A **CITY** OF GODS.

IT IS...A **GREAT DEAL** TO PROCESS.

I'M SORRY, SOMETIMES I FORGET HOW **NEW** YOU ARE TO ALL OF THIS.

I'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR SO LONG THAT I TAKE SIGHTS LIKE THIS FOR GRANTED.

DON'T GET **TOO JADED**, CATGIRL.

IF THE GODS CATCH THE **TWO OF YOU** CREEPING AROUND, THEY'LL JUST BE **CONFUSED**.



BUT IF THEY CATCH **ME** WITH YOU...

YEAH, YEAH, YOU'RE THE **BIG BAD SUPER VILLAIN**, I GOT IT.



YOU'RE
GODS-DAMNED
RIGHT.

HE'S NOT
WRONG.

HUNTER'S MOON AND
I MET UP WITH WHAT'S
LEFT OF THE AVENGERS,
WHAT'S LEFT OF DOCTOR
STRANGE.

IT WAS A
WAR COUNCIL.

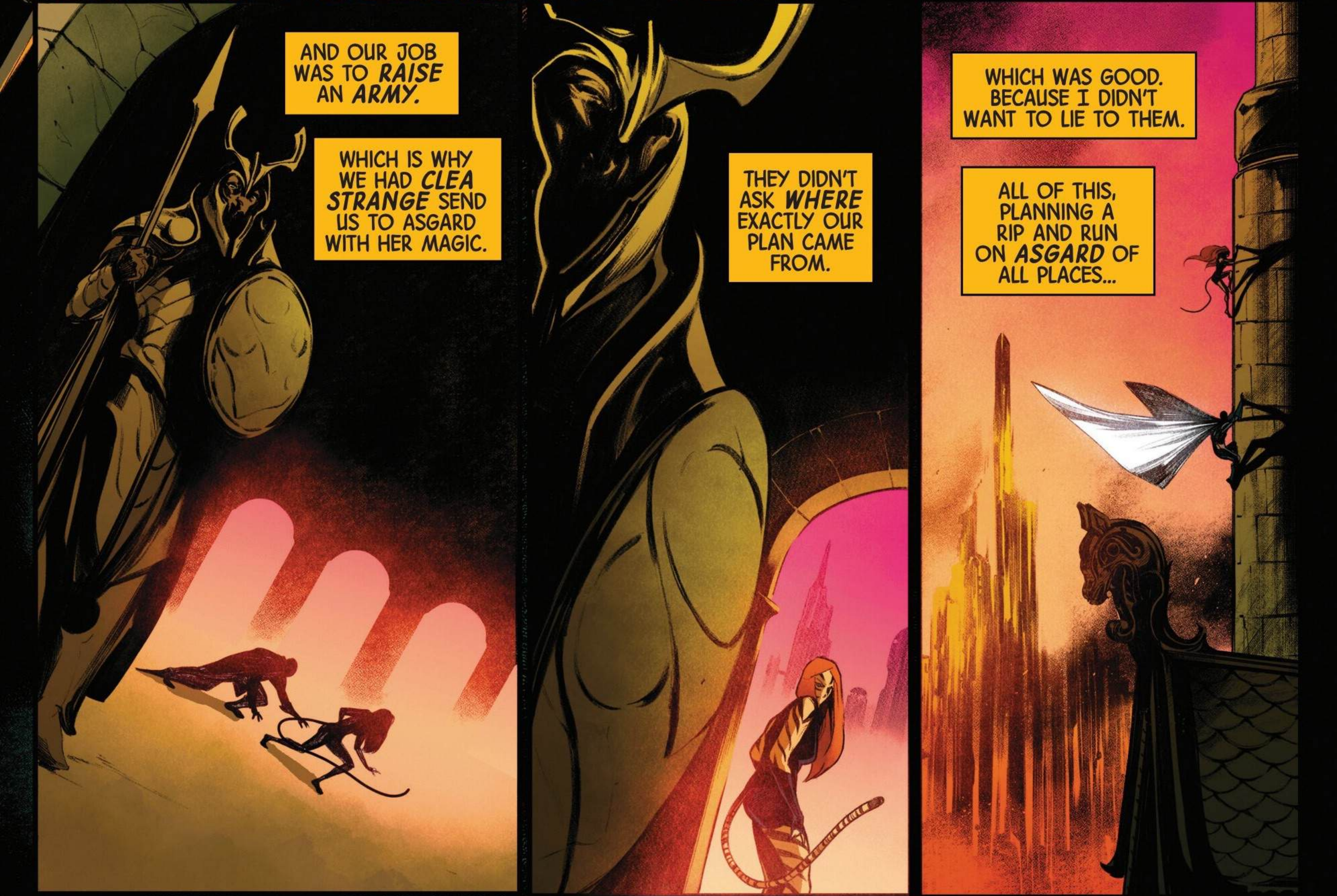
AND OUR JOB
WAS TO RAISE
AN ARMY.

WHICH IS WHY
WE HAD *CLEA
STRANGE* SEND
US TO ASGARD
WITH HER MAGIC.

THEY DIDN'T
ASK *WHERE*
EXACTLY OUR
PLAN CAME
FROM.

WHICH WAS GOOD.
BECAUSE I DIDN'T
WANT TO LIE TO THEM.

ALL OF THIS,
PLANNING A
RIP AND RUN
ON *ASGARD* OF
ALL PLACES...



...WE'VE BEEN
PUTTING THIS
TOGETHER
FOR AGES.



BECAUSE I
WANT TO HELP
SAVE THE WORLD.

I **WANT**
TO SAVE LIVES.

BUT I ALSO
WANT TO SAVE
ONE LIFE.

AND THIS
IS HOW I
DO **BOTH.**



HELLO,
FATHER.
I'VE COME
FOR YOU.



MY
LOVING
SON.

SO KIND
TO VISIT YOUR
FATHER. BUT
FOOLISH, I
FEAR.

I HAVE NO
POWER TO LEND
YOU IN OPENING MY
CELL, AND YOU HAVE
NO KEY FOR THESE
LOCKS.

YOU ARE
CORRECT,
FATHER.

I HAVE
NO POWER TO
OPEN THIS DOOR,
NO KEY.

BUT
I HAVE
BROUGHT
SOMETHING
BETTER.

WHAT BETTER
TOOL TO OPEN
AN **ASGARDIAN**
PRISON...

...THAN AN
ASGARDIAN
CROWBAR?

NICE TO
MEETCHA,
PAL.

THEY
CALL ME THE
WRECKER.

**THIS IS
THE PLAN.**

WE'RE GOING TO
FREE AN **INSANE**
MOON GOD.

AND WE ENLISTED
A **SUPER VILLAIN**
TO DO IT.



I AM
FREE!!!





WE
DID IT.

GOD
HELP US,
WE DID
IT.

FATHER!

GREATEST
OF THE GREAT
GODS!

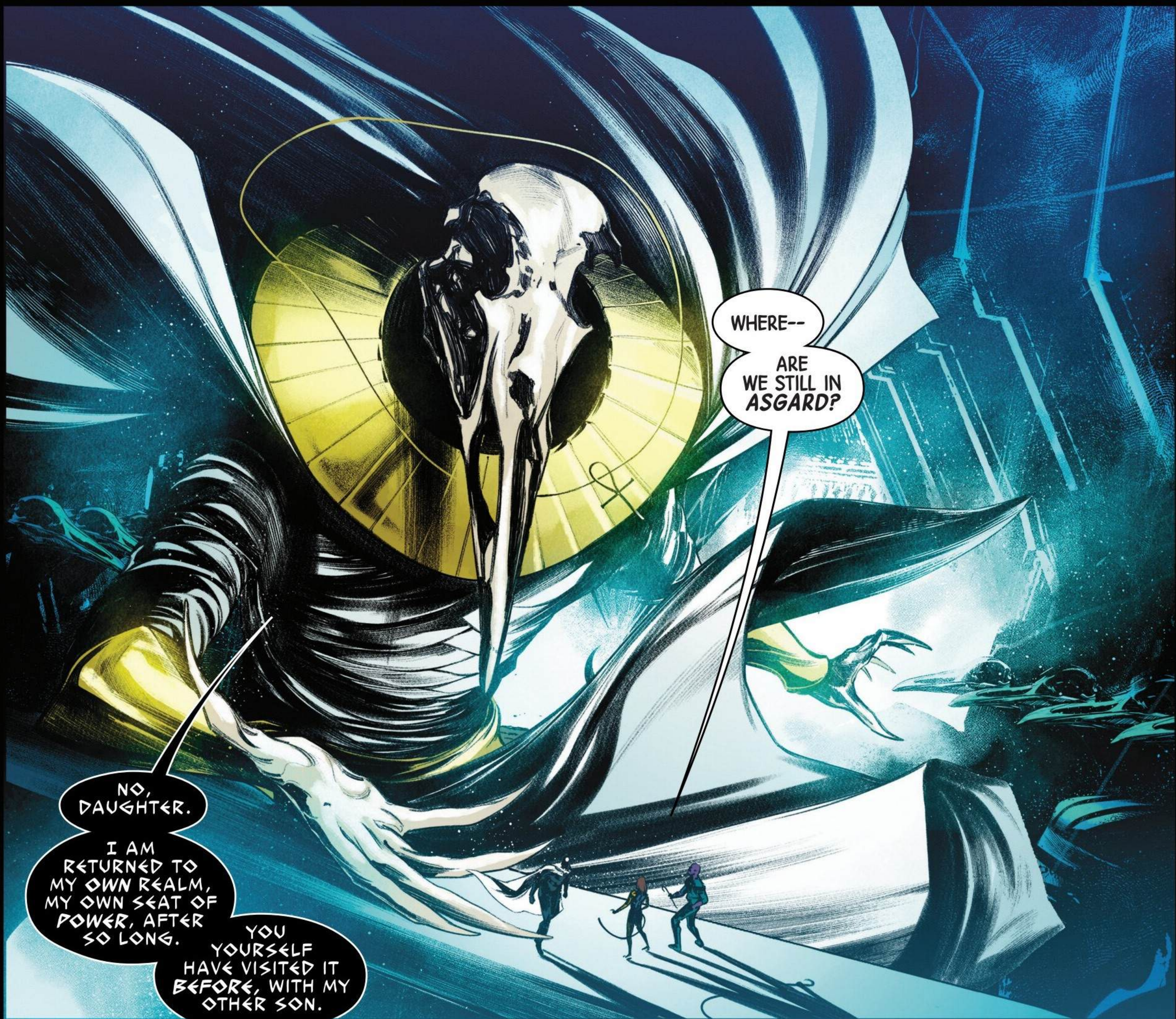
FATHER!



BE
NOT AFRAID,
MY SON.

MY
BELOVED
SON.

YOU
ARE SAFE IN
YOUR FATHER'S
HAND.



WHERE--
ARE
WE STILL IN
ASGARD?

NO,
DAUGHTER.
I AM
RETURNED TO
MY OWN REALM,
MY OWN SEAT OF
POWER, AFTER
SO LONG.
YOU
YOURSELF
HAVE VISITED IT
BEFORE, WITH MY
OTHER SON.



THEN--
--YOU'RE
FREE, YOU
HAVE THE
POWER
NOW--
I
MEAN--
I--



WHERE--
WHERE
IS HE--



A GREAT
CRIME HAS BEEN
INFLICTED UPON
THE WORLD.
AN
UNNATURAL
NIGHT--WITH
NO MOON.



AND
SO I HAVE
GATHERED MY
CHILDREN, MY
FISTS, FROM TIME
IMMEMORIAL TO
THE PRESENT.

BECAUSE
EVERY PERSON
ON EARTH IS NOW
A TRAVELER BY
NIGHT.



MY FISTS
HAVE NO BLOOD
TO BE DRUNK, NO
LIVES TO BE LOST,
NO FEAR TO BE
STIRRED.

WIELDING
THE MOON'S OWN
SILVER FROM MY
ARMORIES.



DAMN
YOU, OLD
BIRD!

I HAD
YOU FREED,
SO ANSWER
ME!



IS
THIS--

ARE YOU
TELLING ME...THAT
MARC CAN'T BE
RESURRECTED?

IS HE
LIKE THE
OTHER DEAD
FISTS?

A--A
ZOMBIE?



YOU
DOUBT
ME?



YOU
BELIEVE
THAT I WOULD
FAIL MY
SON?

THAT I
WOULD RESURRECT
HIM MINDLESS, AS HIS
SIBLINGS HAVE BECOME
AFTER THEIR MANY
RESURRECTIONS?



NO.

MARC
SPECTOR
IS MY MOON
KNIGHT.

AND HE
WILL LEAD
THEM.



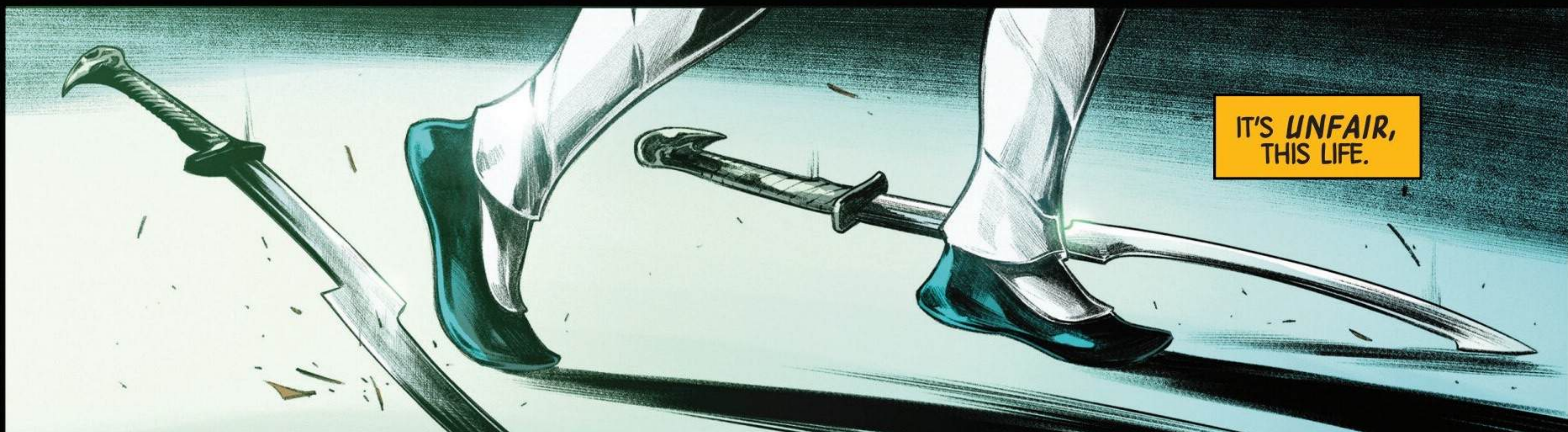
MARC.



GREER.



THIS LIFE. THIS
LIFE I LEAD, THE
WORLD I LIVE IN.



IT'S *UNFAIR*,
THIS LIFE.



EVEN IN *JOY*,
THERE'S *PAIN*.



AND THE TWO
ARE *NEVER* IN
EQUAL MEASURE.



IN EVERY
VICTORY,
THERE'S *LOSS*.



SO WHY DO I
DO IT? WHY DO I
KEEP *FIGHTING*?



BECAUSE IN ALL
THE PAIN, ALL THE
LOSS, I *HOPE*.

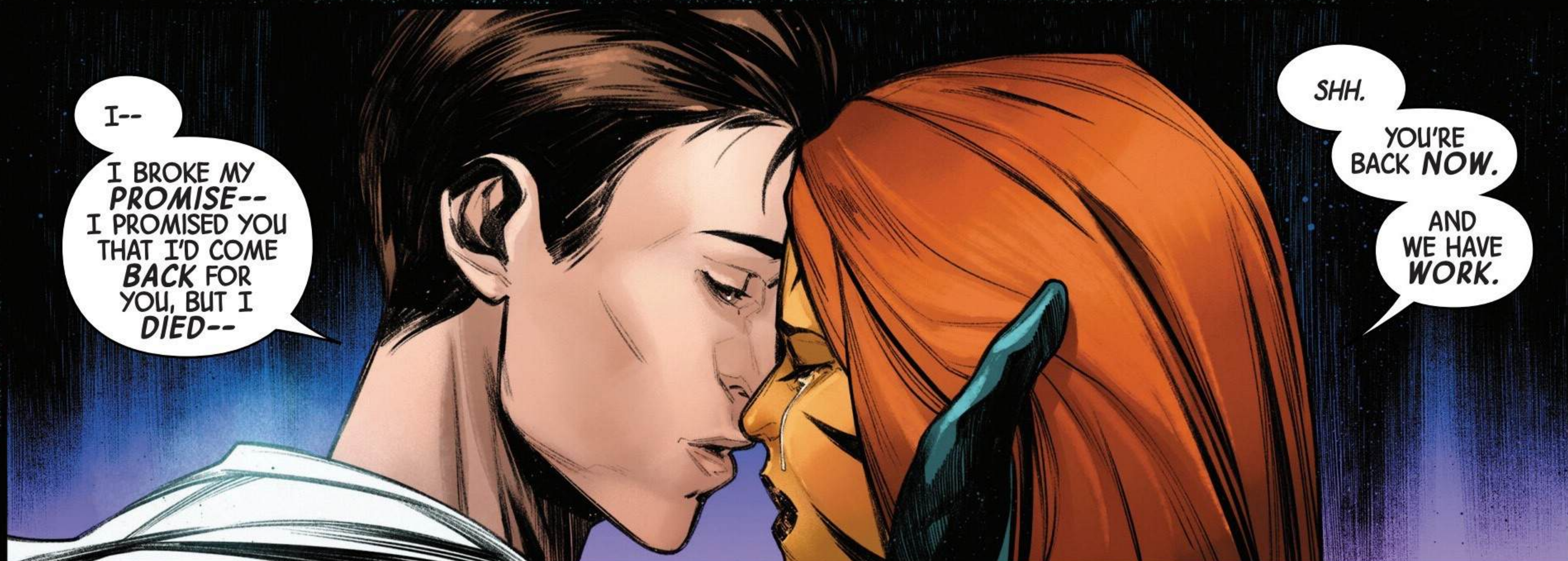
I HOPE THERE'S
A *MOMENT*.



A MOMENT
THAT MAKES IT
ALL *WORTH* IT.

A MOMENT
LIKE THIS.





I--
I BROKE MY
PROMISE--
I PROMISED YOU
THAT I'D COME
BACK FOR
YOU, BUT I
DIED--

SHH.
YOU'RE
BACK NOW.
AND
WE HAVE
WORK.



RIGHT.
WORK. OUR
PEOPLE.

WHAT'S
THE PLAN?



WE GO
TO WAR, MY
SON.
VAMPIRE
SCUM SPILL
BLOOD ACROSS
THE WORLD IN
THE NIGHT, MY
NIGHT.

BROTHER.
I AM...I
AM **GLAD**
TO SEE YOU
WELL.



YOU WILL
LEAD A CADRE OF
YOUR SIBLINGS INTO
THE HEART OF THE
BATTLE.
THE
AVENGERS
DO BATTLE WITH
THE ARCHITECT OF
THIS ATROCITY.

YOU WILL
JOIN THEM AND
SHOW THE WORLD
HOW YOUR FATHER
PROTECTS
TRAVELERS BY
NIGHT.



I'M
GOING **WITH**
HIM--

NO.
WE DO
BATTLE ON A
GLOBAL
SCALE.

YOU WILL LEAD
ANOTHER CADRE
OF MY WARRIORS,
DAUGHTER, AS WILL
MY YOUNGER,
FAITHFUL SON.

IT WILL
BE **DONE**,
FATHER.





TO WAR!
TO WAR!

TO
WAR!

MY SYMBOL
SHINES IN THE
SKY--OUR BATTLE
STANDARD! OUR
CHALLENGE TO
OUR ENEMIES!



NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS,
NO MATTER
WHAT...

...I'LL KEEP
MY PROMISE
THIS TIME.

I'M COMING
BACK FOR YOU,
GREER.



YOU'D
BETTER.

BECAUSE
I'VE GOT ABOUT
ONE RESURRECTION
SCHEME IN ME, AND
IT'S BEEN ALL
USED UP.



I
MEAN
IT.

"VAMPIRES--



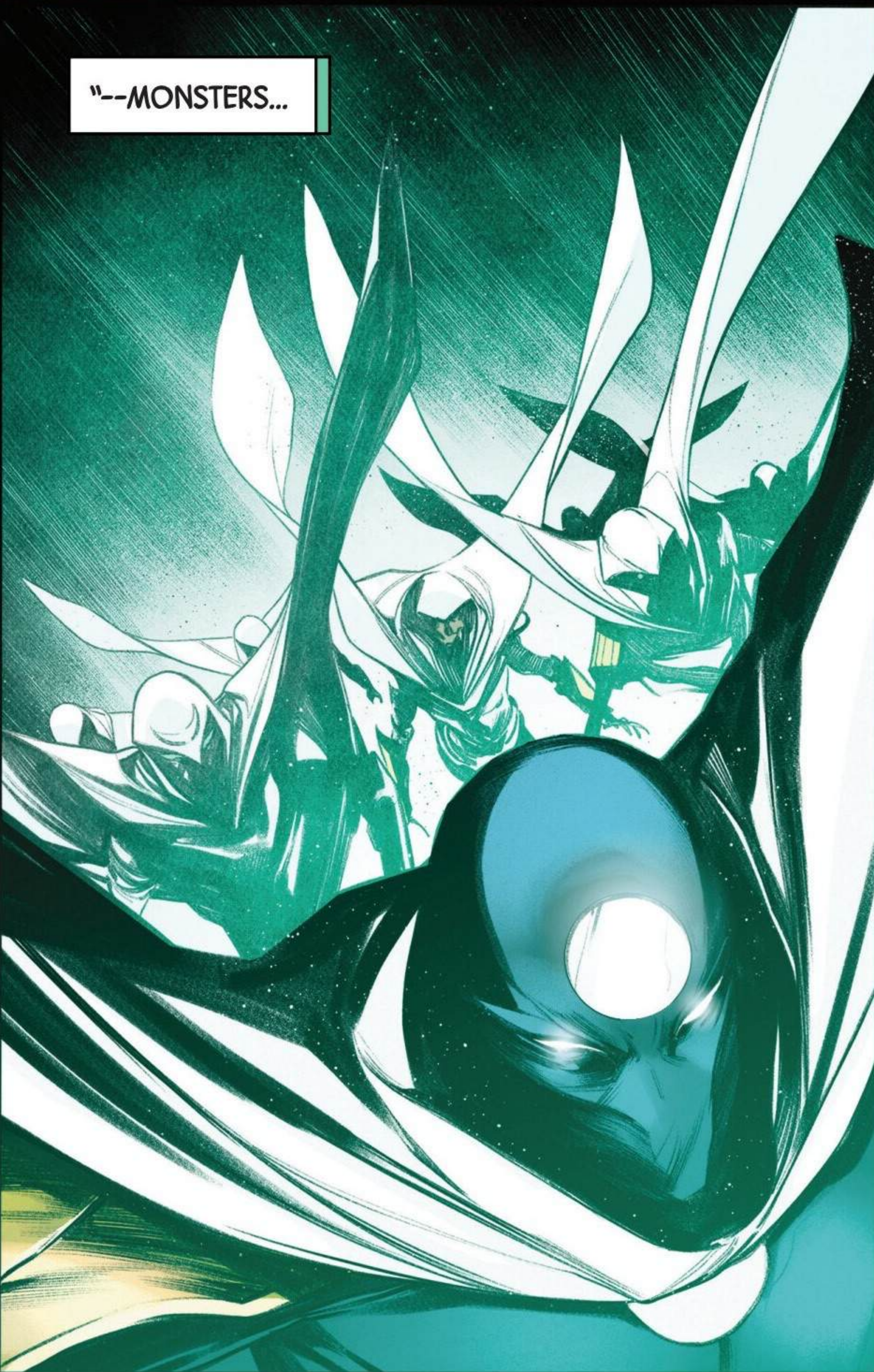
"--GODS--



"--MANIACS--



"--MONSTERS...



NEW YORK CITY.

"...NOTHING WILL
STOP ME COMING
BACK FOR YOU."





“THREE MOMENTS”

8





IF THOSE
VAMPS RAM THAT
GAS TRUCK INTO
THE MISSION--

I DUNNO
IF IT CAN TAKE
THAT.



IT'S NOT
GOING TO
HAVE TO.

WITH 8-BALL
OUT SCAVENGING
SUPPLIES, IT'S JUST YOU
AND ME. YOU GOT
ANOTHER SCUFF
IN YOU?



I'VE
ALWAYS
GOT ANOTHER
IN ME.

NO, YOU
DON'T.



YOU TWO
HAVEN'T BEEN
FEEDING SINCE
WE RAN OUT OF
BLOOD BAGS.

YOU'RE
GETTING
WEAK.



I'M NOT GOING
TO DRINK **YOUR**
BLOOD--

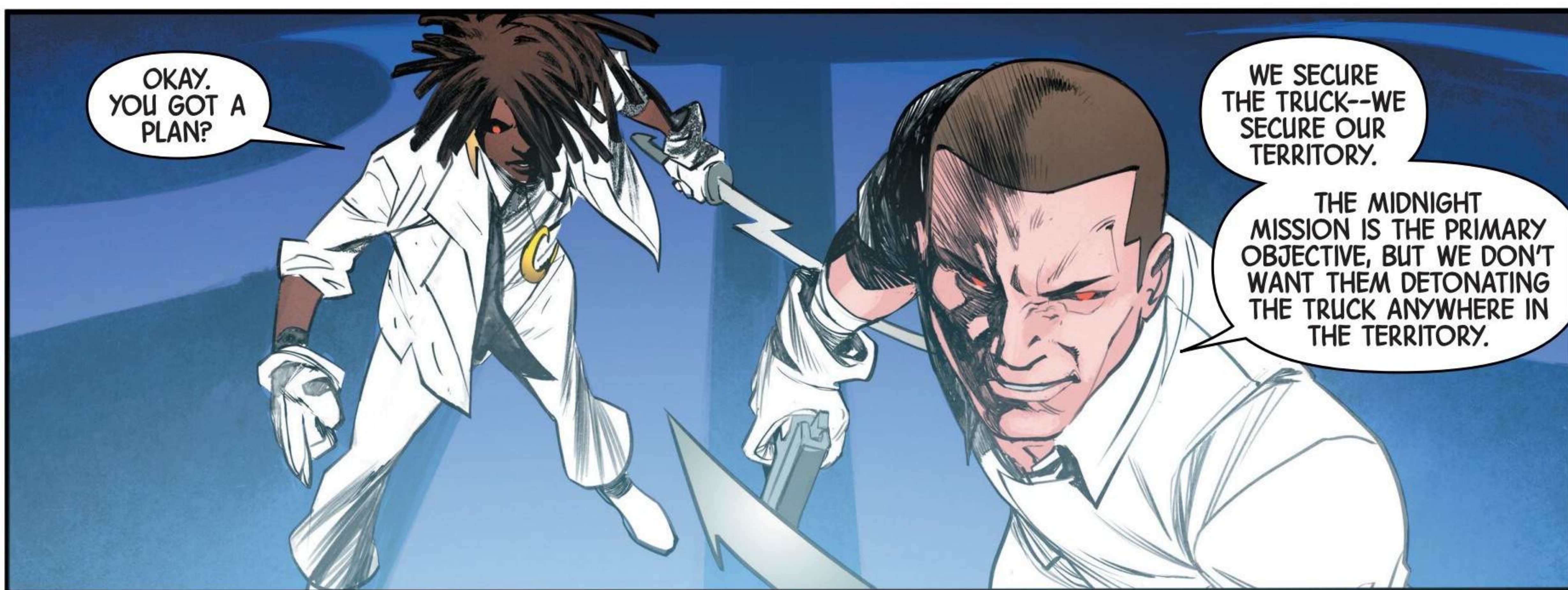
DR. STERMAN'S,
RIGHT.

IF WE'RE
DOING THIS,
WE NEED IT.



...
YOU DIDN'T
DRAW TOO MUCH,
DID YOU?

I'M A
DOCTOR,
REESE.



"...A MOMENT
OF ABSOLUTE
TERROR.



"FROM THE NIGHT I WAS
TURNED, I'VE BEEN AFRAID
OF THIS MOMENT.

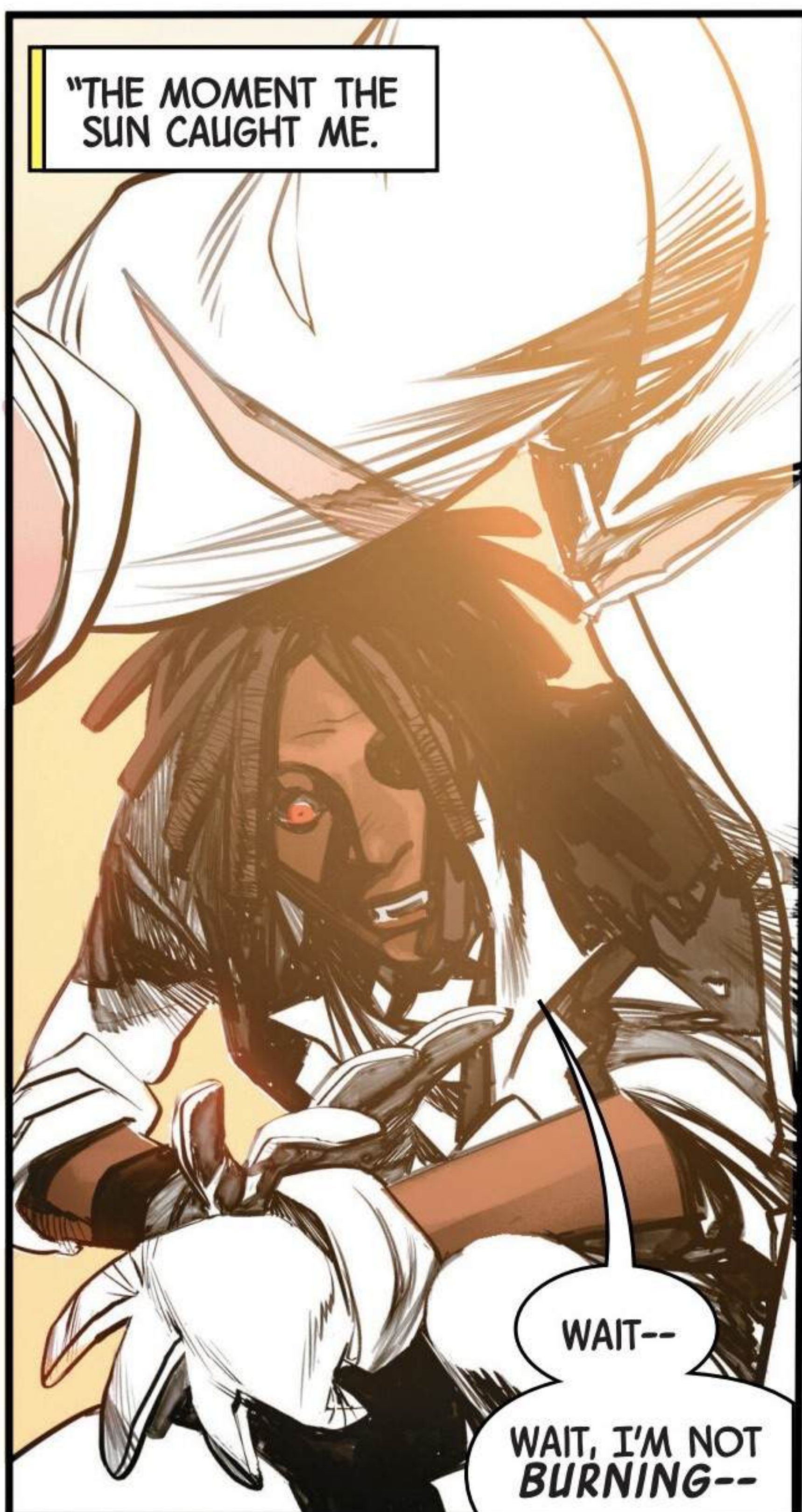
REESE,
GET IN THE
SHADE--



"THE MOMENT THE
SUN CAUGHT ME.

WAIT--

WAIT, I'M NOT
BURNING--



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

WE SHOULD BE
BURNING--



WE
SHOULD
BE.

BUT
WE'RE
NOT.



"A MOMENT
OF TERROR.

"THEN A MOMENT
OF *JOY*.

"I HADN'T SEEN THE
SUN SINCE I'D BEEN
TURNED, SINCE I MET
MARC, SINCE I BECAME
PART OF THE
MIDNIGHT MISSION.

"MY *EVERY* DAY
SINCE THEN HAD
BEEN A *NIGHT*.

"EXCEPT FOR
THIS ONE.

REESE!

"A MOMENT
OF JOY.

"BUT MOMENTS
DON'T LAST.

THEY'RE
NOT BURNING
EITHER!

"IF ANYTHING,
IT WAS *WORSE*
IN THE SUN.

"CUTTING DOWN
VAMPIRES AT *NIGHT*
WAS ONE THING.

"DOING IT BY *DAYLIGHT*
SEEMED *OBSCENE*.

"LIKE A SPRAY OF *BLOOD*
ON A *BOUQUET*."

DO
IT!
BLOW UP
THE TRUCK
NOW!

IT'S
NOT *CLOSE*
ENOUGH!

DO IT
BEFORE THEY
KILL US ALL!



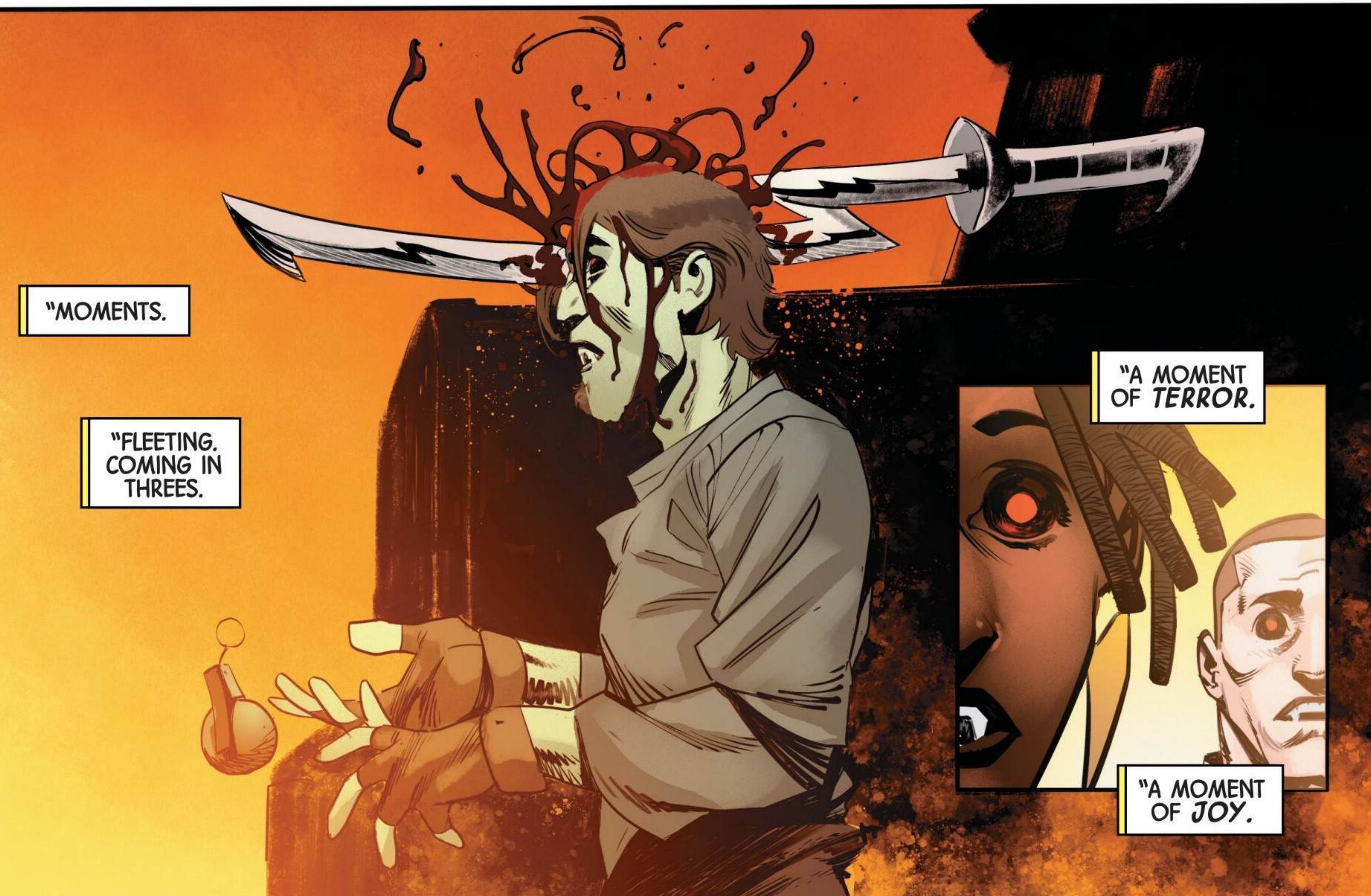
OKAY,
OKAY!



NO,
DON'T--



TOO LATE,
YOU BLOOD
TRAITORS--



"MOMENTS.

"FLEETING.
COMING IN
THREES.



"A MOMENT
OF TERROR.

"A MOMENT
OF JOY.

"AND A
MOMENT OF
AWE."



"HUNTER'S
MOON."

"TIGRA."

"MOON
KNIGHT?!"

IT'S...
...IT'S
HIM.

IS IT
REAL THIS
TIME--

REESE, YOU
GOTTA TELL ME--
IT'S FOR REAL
THIS TIME?

HE'S
BACK.

THEY
DID IT.

THEY
BROUGHT HIM
HOME.





WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WEARING?

→SNIFF←

YOU'RE STILL NOT FUNNY.



YOU TWO... YOU STEPPED UP.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF THE MISSION.



AND FOR WHAT YOU DID TO BRING ME BACK.

ALL OF YOU.



WE, UH, OWE THE WRECKER A LOT OF MONEY, BOSS.



AND HE'LL GET IT.

THAT WAS GOOD *TWO-BIRDS* THINKING--WE PAY OFF THE WRECKER, AND HE'S NOT GOING TO BE KNOCKING OVER BANKS FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

KEEPS HIM OFF THE BOARD FOR A BIT.



SO WHAT'S UP? DID YOU GUYS *FIX THE SKY*?

HONESTLY, I HAVE NO IDEA.

I'M NOT THE *BIG-PICTURE* GUY-- I JUST JUMPED INTO THE FIGHT AND HELPED THE AVENGERS BATTLE BLADE.

BLADE?!

YEAH, HE WAS POSSESSED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE FIRST VAMPIRE. KICKED ALL THIS OFF.



GOD.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS IS MY LIFE. UNLIFE. WHATEVER.



SO.

WHAT'S NEXT, BOSS?



NEXT?



NEXT, WE
TAKE OUR
TERRITORY
BACK.

"WE SCoured
OUR STREETS.

"WE TOOK BACK
OUR BLOCKS.

"WE LOOKED
AFTER OUR
PEOPLE.

"WE PUNISHED
OUR ENEMIES.

"BY THE TIME
NIGHT FELL, OUR
STREETS WERE
SECURED."

"AND WE MADE
SURE EVERYONE
KNEW IT."





GOD.

HE'S GOT ME
TALKING LIKE
HIM NOW.

IT'S HARD
TO BELIEVE IT'S
OVER.

HARD TO
BELIEVE HE'S
BACK.

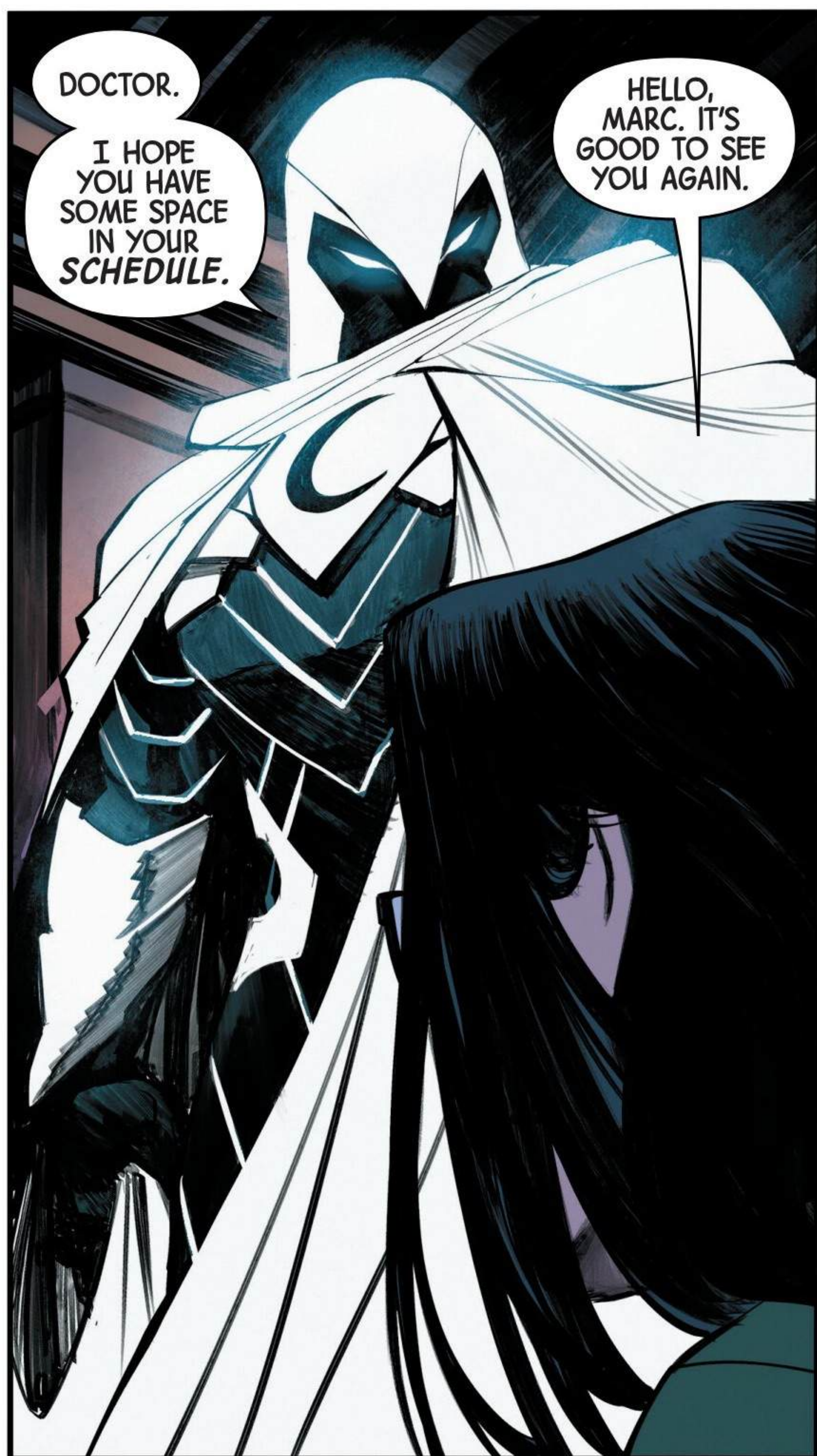
HE'S
BACK.

AND I
SAW THE *SUN*,
DR. STERMAN.



THE
SUN.

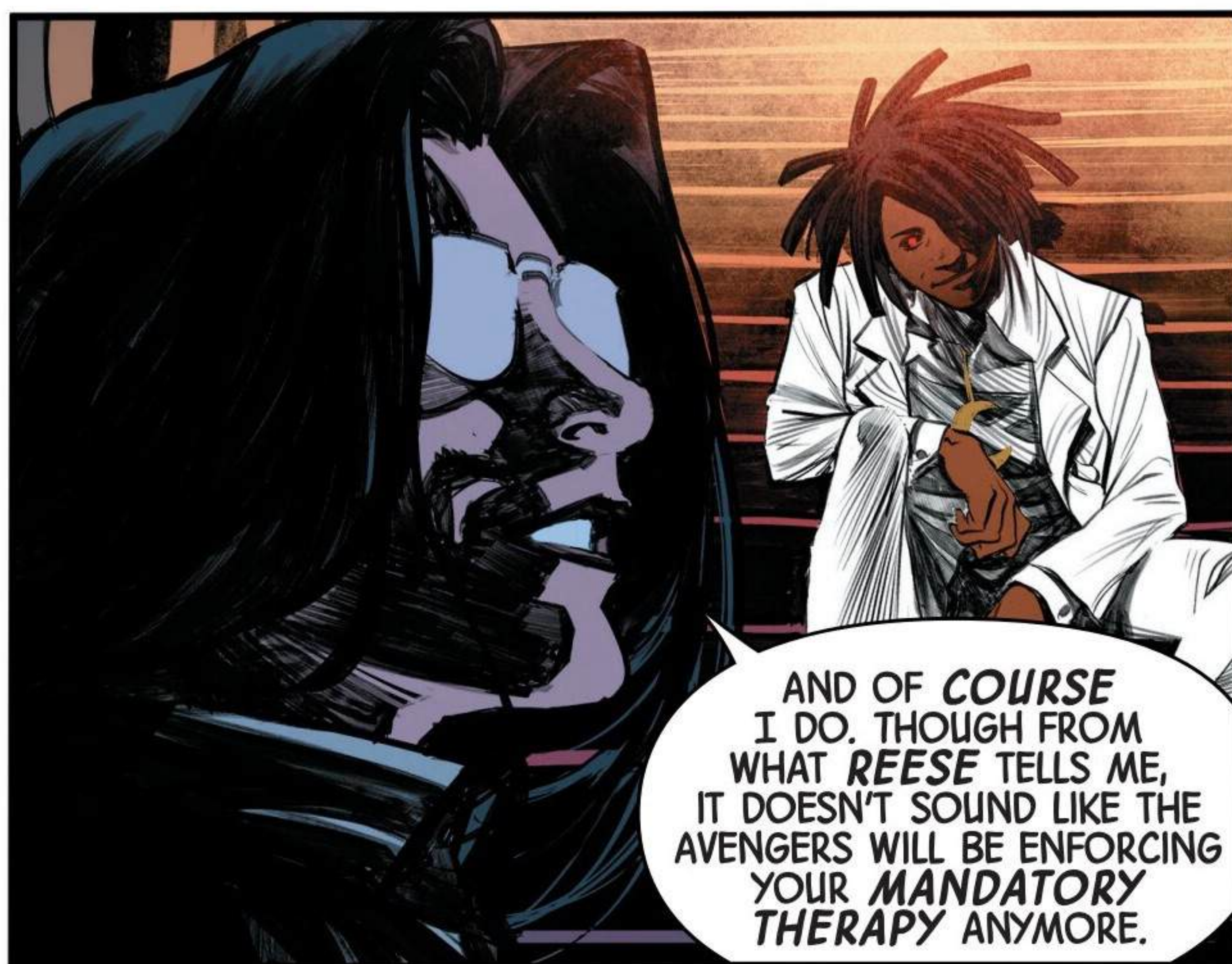
FELT
IT ON MY
SKIN.



DOCTOR.

I HOPE
YOU HAVE
SOME SPACE
IN YOUR
SCHEDULE.

HELLO,
MARC. IT'S
GOOD TO SEE
YOU AGAIN.



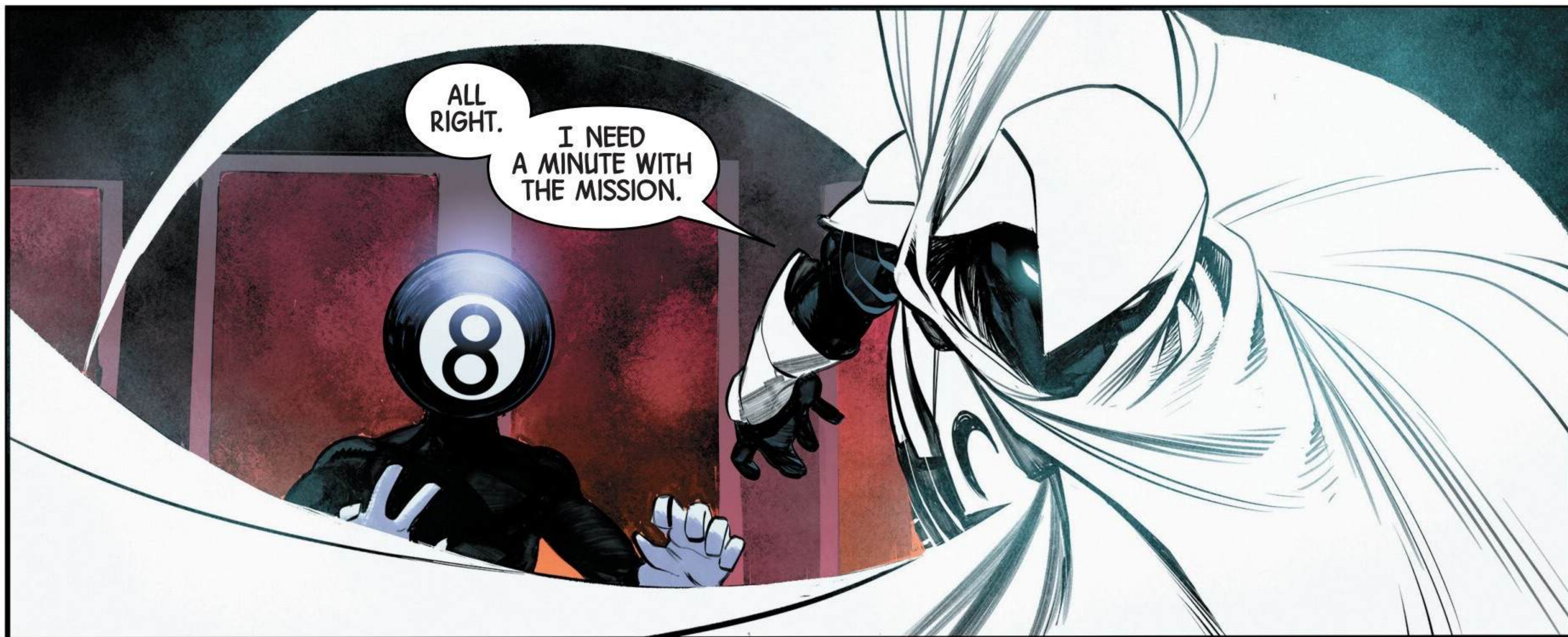
AND OF *COURSE*
I DO. THOUGH FROM
WHAT *REESE* TELLS ME,
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE
AVENGERS WILL BE ENFORCING
YOUR *MANDATORY*
THERAPY ANYMORE.



OUR WORK STOPPED
BEING ABOUT THE
AVENGERS A LONG
TIME AGO,
DR. STERMAN.

AND
I'D LIKE TO
CONTINUE
THAT WORK.







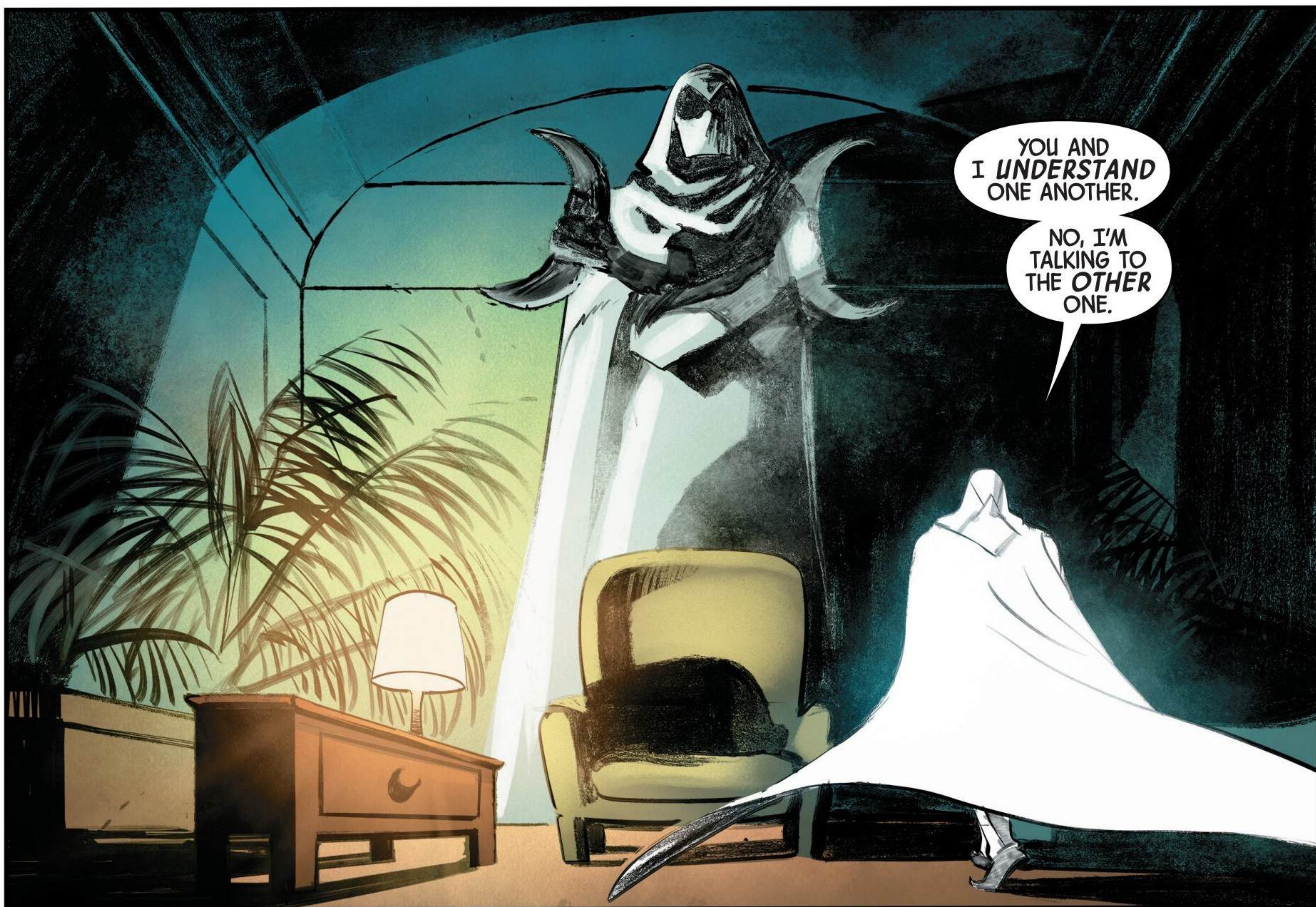
IT'S *JUST*
YOU AND
I NOW.

ARE
YOU GOING
TO *TALK* TO
ME?



NO,
NOT *YOU*,
MISSION.

YOU AND I
DON'T *HAVE*
TO TALK, DO
WE?



YOU AND
I *UNDERSTAND*
ONE ANOTHER.

NO, I'M
TALKING TO
THE *OTHER*
ONE.



WHAT DO
YOU *WANT*,
KHONSHU?

YOU
KNOW WHAT
I WANT,
MARC.

I WANT
THE *INSULT*
AGAINST ME
AVENGED.



YOU HAVE
TO KILL THE
PRETENDER.
THE IMPOSTOR.
THE FALSE
PRIEST.

YOU
HAVE TO
KILL MOON
KNIGHT.

REUNITED, MOON KNIGHT AND HIS MIDNIGHT MISSION WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE VAMPIRE FORCES THREATENING THE MISSION. BUT NOW THAT THE BATTLE IS OVER, THERE IS A DEBT TO BE PAID AS KHONSHU IS NOT A GOD TO GIVE OUT FAVORS LIGHTLY. AND THE ONLY THING HE WANTS THAT CAN BALANCE THE SCALES?

THE DEATH OF THE FALSE MOON KNIGHT.



THEN.*

I
NEED YOUR
HELP.

NOW.

BUT I AM
IMPRISONED,
MARC. IN SHINING
ASGARD. BY
YOUR HAND.

*MOON KNIGHT #11!

KHONSHU,
WHO IS THE
DEFENDER. THE
EMBRACER. THE
TRAVELER.

THE
PATHFINDER.

FIND ME
A PATH TO
MY TEMPLE,
FATHER.

THERE
WILL BE A
PRICE.

THERE
ALWAYS
IS.
AND
YOU'LL HAVE
IT.

NOW.

NO.

NOT
NOW.

I HAVE
BUSINESS TO
ATTEND TO.

YES, I
KNOW.

BUT
IT IS **OUR**
BUSINESS.







HEY.
SHUT UP.



SHE DOESN'T KNOW, DOES SHE?

HEH, WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS.



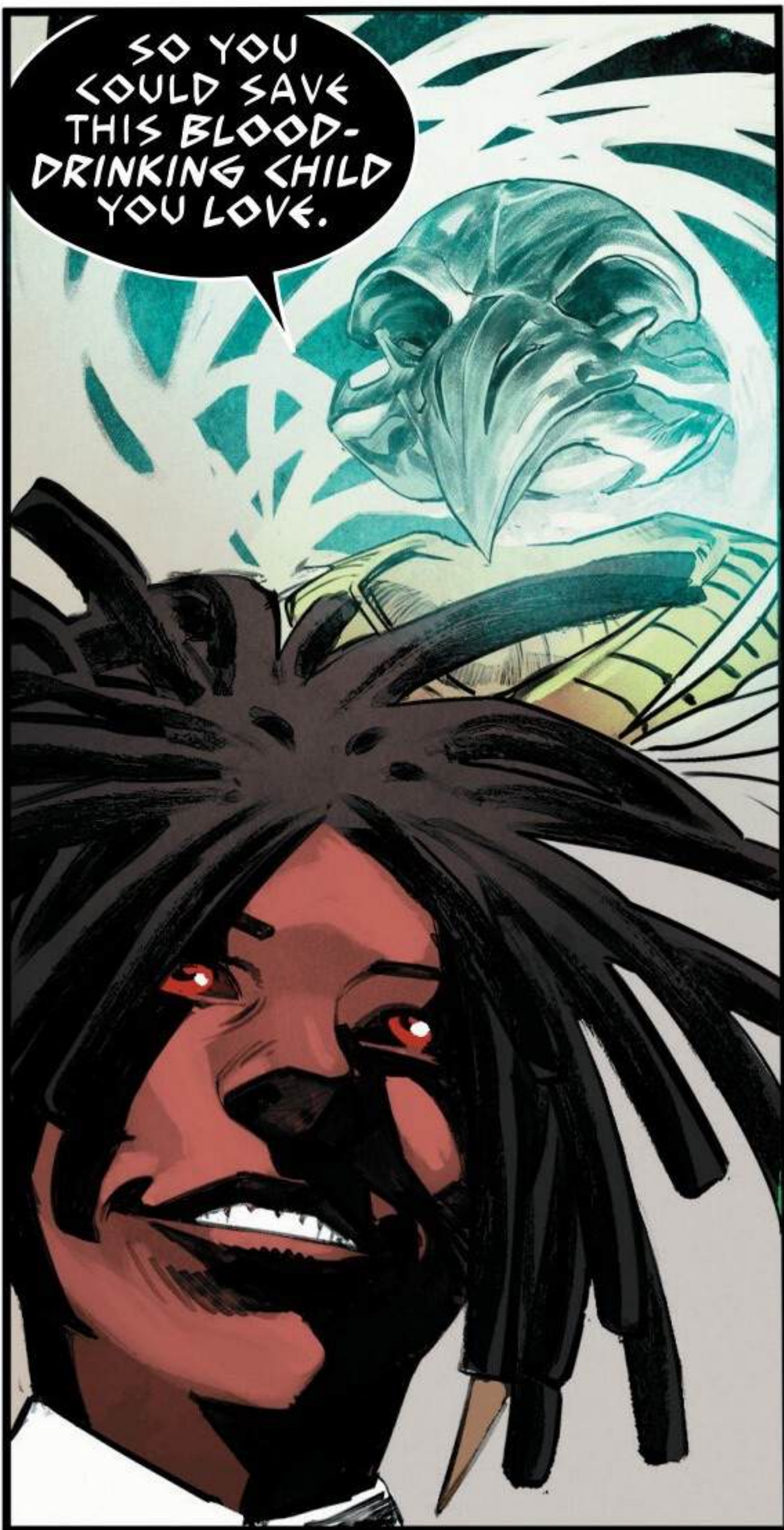
SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT YOU PETITIONED YOUR LOVING FATHER FOR AID IN ORDER TO SAVE HER LIFE.



WHICH I GRANTED YOU.

I FOUND A PATH FOR YOU TO YOUR TEMPLE, SO YOU AND THE WERE-WOMAN COULD DO VIOLENCE TO ZODIAC AND HIS CREATURES.*

*MOON KNIGHT #12!



SO YOU COULD SAVE THIS BLOOD-DRINKING CHILD YOU LOVE.

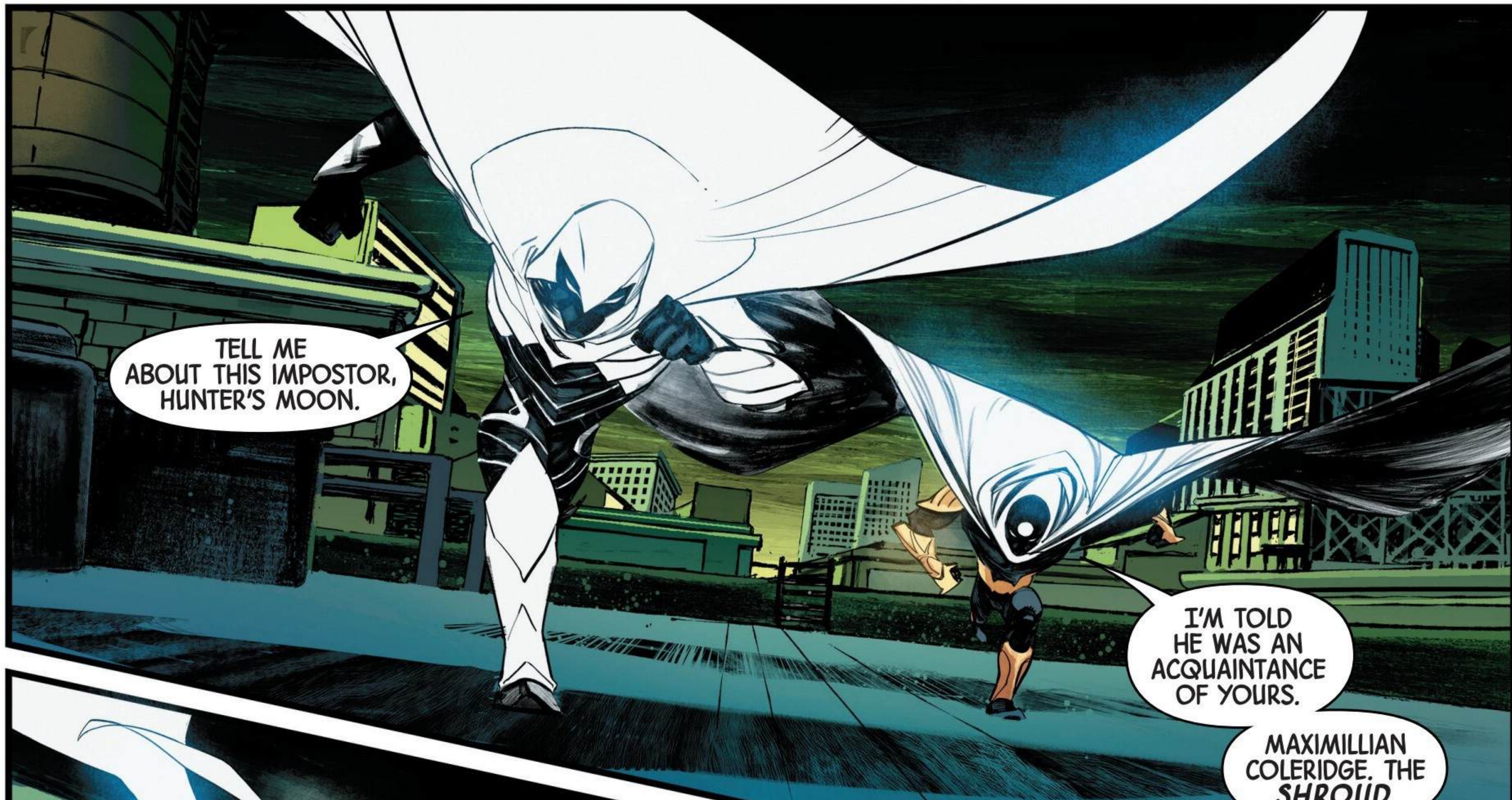


I TOLD YOU THERE WOULD BE A PRICE, MARC.

AND YOU TOLD ME I WOULD HAVE IT.
YOU OWE ME A LIFE.



AND I HAVE TOLD YOU WHICH LIFE I WANT.



I'M TOLD HE WAS AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS.

MAXIMILLIAN COLERIDGE, THE SHROUD.



HE WENT WILD ON THE STREETS, DRESSED IN STOLEN SYMBOLS. HE WAS DANGEROUS.



SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW.



HRN. BE THAT AS IT MAY.



YOU'VE BEEN A FIST OF KHONSHU SINCE YOUR FIRST DEATH.

YOU HAVE A **RIGHT** TO THE VESTMENTS WE BOTH WEAR, REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE IN THEM.



HE DID NOT. DOES NOT.



WHERE DID YOU LEAVE HIM?

HE WAS LAIRING IN THE OLD MOUNT BUILDING, THE PLACE WHERE YOU DIED.

WE FOUGHT HIM THERE, MADE HIM SEE THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS...AND HE THEN EXPLODED INTO A DARKFORCE GEYSER.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT, BROTHER?

I OWE KHONSHU A LIFE.

AND HE WANTS THIS "MOON KNIGHT" DEAD, AS PAYMENT FOR HIS HELP WITH THE ZODIAC THING.



AH.
COLERIDGE'S LIFE FOR REESE'S.



KHONSHU IS FREE NOW.

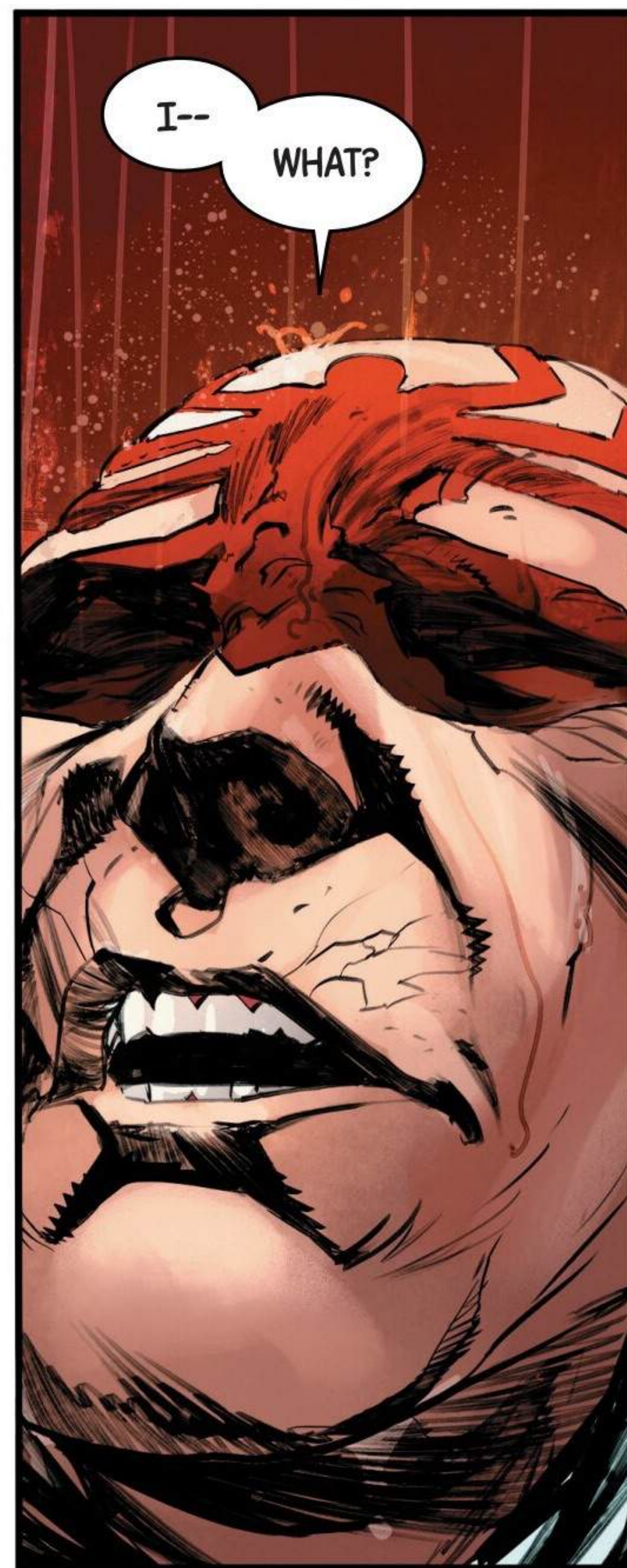
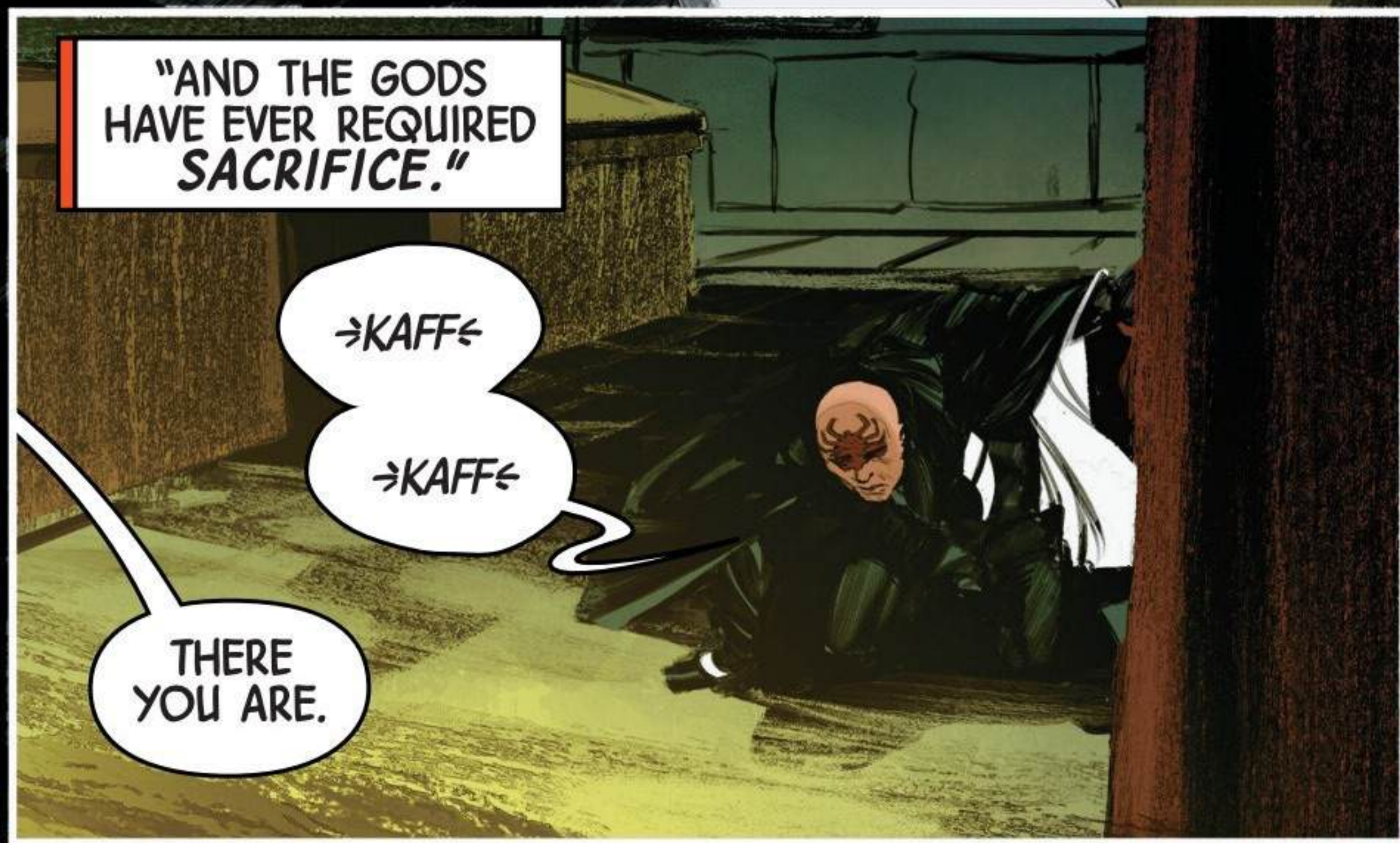
IF I RENEGE ON MY DEBT... HE CAN ACT ON IT.

SHE'S NOT SAFE IF I DON'T DO THIS.



OUR FATHER IS A JEALOUS GOD, BROTHER.

A FALSE FIST IS A GRAVE OFFENSE TO HIS NAME.





PUT ON THE *MASK*, "MOON KNIGHT."



I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU *DON'T*.

WHEN YOU TOOK MY NAME, YOU DIDN'T JUST OFFEND MY FRIENDS.

YOU OFFENDED A *GOD*.

AND GODS ARE ONLY SATIATED BY BLOOD, *MOON KNIGHT*.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, *MOON KNIGHT* DIES TONIGHT.

SO PUT ON THE *MASK*.



STOP *CALLING* ME THAT!

I UNDERSTAND WHAT I DID WAS *WRONG!*

I'LL GIVE UP THE *SUIT!*



SO
BE IT.



THAT'S
MORE LIKE
IT.



COME
ON, MOON
KNIGHT.

YOU'RE
BETTER THAN
THIS.



WHAT THE
HELL IS **WRONG**
WITH YOU?

I'VE GIVEN
UP! YOU'RE GOING
TO **KILL** ME FOR
IT?



YOU WERE
CULT OF KALI,
MOON KNIGHT.

STOP IT!
STOP **CALLING**
ME **THA--**



WHAT DID
THEY DO TO
SOMEONE WHO
THEIR GOD
WAS **PISSED**
OFF AT?



IF YOU'RE
NO BETTER THAN
THE *CULT OF
KALI* WAS...

...MAYBE YOU
SHOULDN'T BE
MOON KNIGHT.

NOW
YOU'RE
GETTING
IT.

THIS IS
KILL OR BE
KILLED.

KRAS

SHHH

UGGHHDD!!!

→KAFF←

→KAFF←

UGH,
GOD--

YES.
A GOD.



LIKE I SAID:



NOW YOU'RE GETTING IT.



YOU'RE HOLDING BACK.

YOU FOUGHT HUNTER'S MOON AND TIGRA TO A STANDSTILL.

COME ON!



THIS HAS TO BE *REAL*, MOON KNIGHT!

YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR *YOUR LIFE*!



UPON YOUR OWN HEAD BE IT.

DARKFORCE IT IS.



DARKFORCE
POWERS NOT
DOING SO WELL
AFTER THE WHOLE
BLOOD HUNT
EXPERIENCE,
HUH?

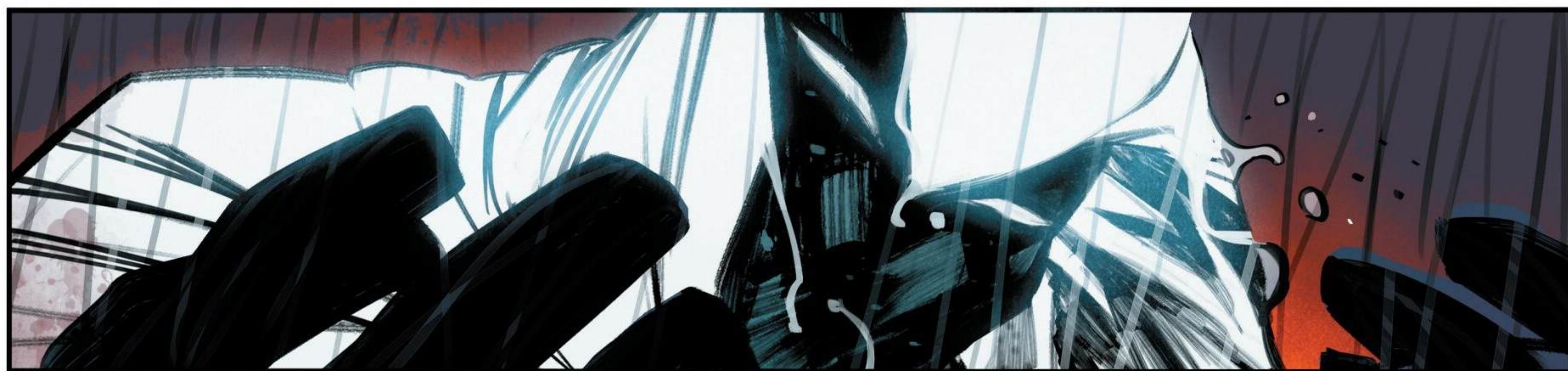
IT'S BEEN
A DIFFICULT
TIME.

BUT I'VE
TRAINED FOR LONGER
THAN *YOU* HAVE,
MOON KNIGHT.

I DON'T
NEED
THEM.

SHOW
ME.







IT'S
DONE,
BROTHER.

HE'S
DEAD.

THE BAR WITH NO NAME.





AND
DON'T SAY
I NEVER DID
ANYTHING FOR
YOU.

THE MIDNIGHT MISSION.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED.

WHAT **HAPPENED**, MAX, IS WHAT **HAD** TO HAPPEN.

YOU, **MOON KNIGHT**, DIED.

TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, I HAD TO **KILL** YOU. STOP YOUR **HEART**.

AND THEN **DR. BADR** HERE DEFIBRILLATED YOU AND GOT IT **GOING** AGAIN.

HRN.

THIS IS A **DANGEROUS GAME**, BROTHER.

DANGEROUS GAMES ARE THE ONLY ONES WORTH **PLAYING**.

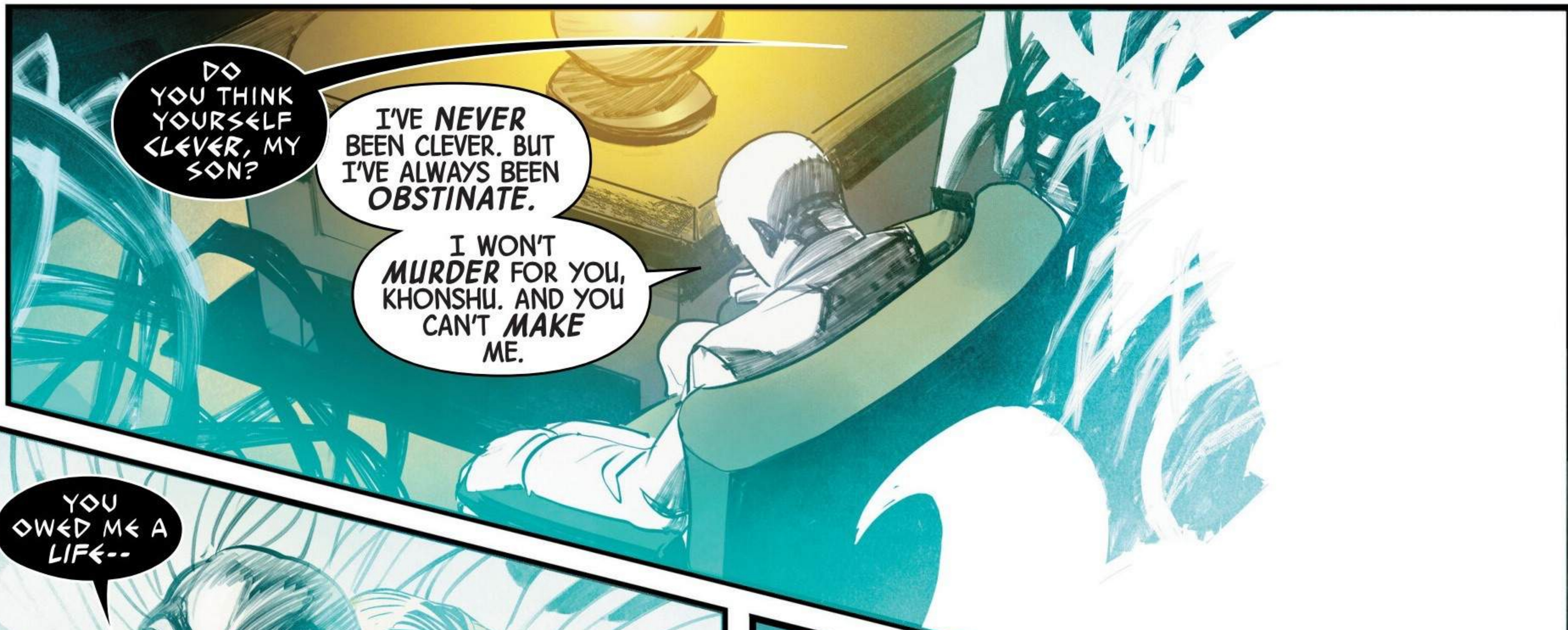
AND YOU WON THE **PRIZE**, MAX.

YOU GET TO **LIVE**. EVEN AFTER A **GOD** CALLED FOR YOUR DEATH.

I GAVE YOU YOUR **LIFE** BACK. YOU **OWE** ME.

SO GET **HELP**, MAX.

DO THE WORK.



DO YOU THINK YOURSELF CLEVER, MY SON?

I'VE **NEVER** BEEN CLEVER. BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN **OBSTINATE**.

I WON'T **MURDER** FOR YOU, KHONSHU. AND YOU CAN'T **MAKE** ME.

YOU OWED ME A **LIFE**--



AND YOU **GOT** ONE.

THE IMPOSTOR MOON KNIGHT IS **DEAD**, NEVER TO RETURN.

THAT IS NOT WHAT I **WANTED**--



I AM NOT **CONCERNED** WITH WHAT YOU **WANT**, OLD **BIRD**!



A SACRIFICE TO A GOD IS **ALWAYS** SYMBOLIC.

THE IMPOSTOR'S **SKIN** HANGS PINNED IN A PLACE OF THOSE WHO HOLD **ME**, AND THEREFORE **YOU**, IN **TERROR**.

I HAVE **SATISFIED** YOUR DEMANDS. I HAVE **PAID** MY DEBT.

AND BEFORE YOU THREATEN **REESE** OR **ANY** OF MY MIDNIGHT MISSION AGAIN...



...THINK ABOUT **YOUR OWN** DEBT TO THEM, **FATHER**.

YOU OWE THEM YOUR **FREEDOM**.



MOON
KNIGHT IS
DEAD.

LONG
LIVE MOON
KNIGHT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

MISSION CONTROL

KILLING A SUPER HERO IS TRICKY.

It's made all the more so when it's the title character of your ongoing series. After all, there are certain expectations: We're all hip comics readers, we know these characters don't stay dead long. And, I think, that expectation is exacerbated by the fact that *DYING AND COMING BACK IS WHAT MOON KNIGHT DOES*.

So what was to be done? I couldn't claim I was bullied into it, it was my idea—I remember being at NYCC in 2022, sitting at Alessandro's table as I hyped up what I'd already known the last page of *MOON KNIGHT* #30 was going to look like: the Midnight Mission, brought together through their grief to carry on the work of their absent friend, and that was well before I'd sold Tom on the whole idea (which only happened once I realized how I could dovetail *MOON KNIGHT* into *BLOOD HUNT* and kill as many birds as I wanted with but the one stone). No, this was all upon my own head.

Which led me to think of what exactly is important about a super-hero death. The importance of making the moment feel earned, feel visceral and impactful enough that the logical part of your mind that's telling you "don't worry, he's back soon" gets drowned out by an involuntary wailing chorus of your emotions. Of showing what the world is like without that character, for however long that might be, that grief and loss burning hot and bright like an exposed nerve in a cracked tooth. *MOON KNIGHT* was a series about achieving redemption, while *VENGEANCE* was one about legacy, and the grief that comes with that.

But after that comes rebirth: *MOON KNIGHT: FIST OF KHONSHU* #1. Moon Knight has returned to life (albeit with a secret he died with, as canny readers may have noticed). The Midnight Mission remains. And the Embracer, the Pathfinder, the Traveler, the Defender of those who travel at night, Khonshu, is once again free.

Welcome to the Midnight Mission.

How can we help?

Jed MacKay
Nova Scotia, July 2024



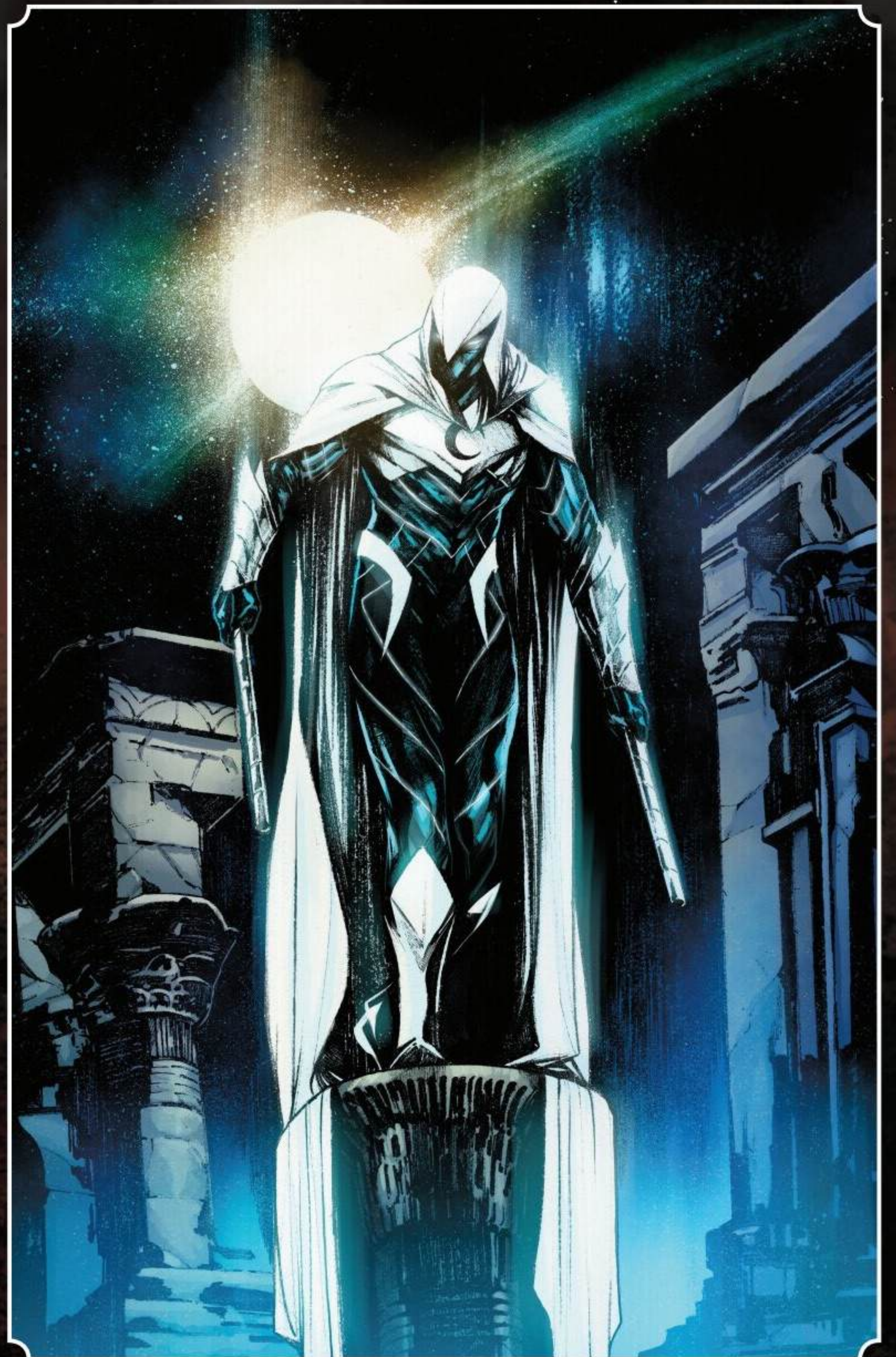
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#6 BIG MARVELS VARIANT BY **SKOTTIE YOUNG**



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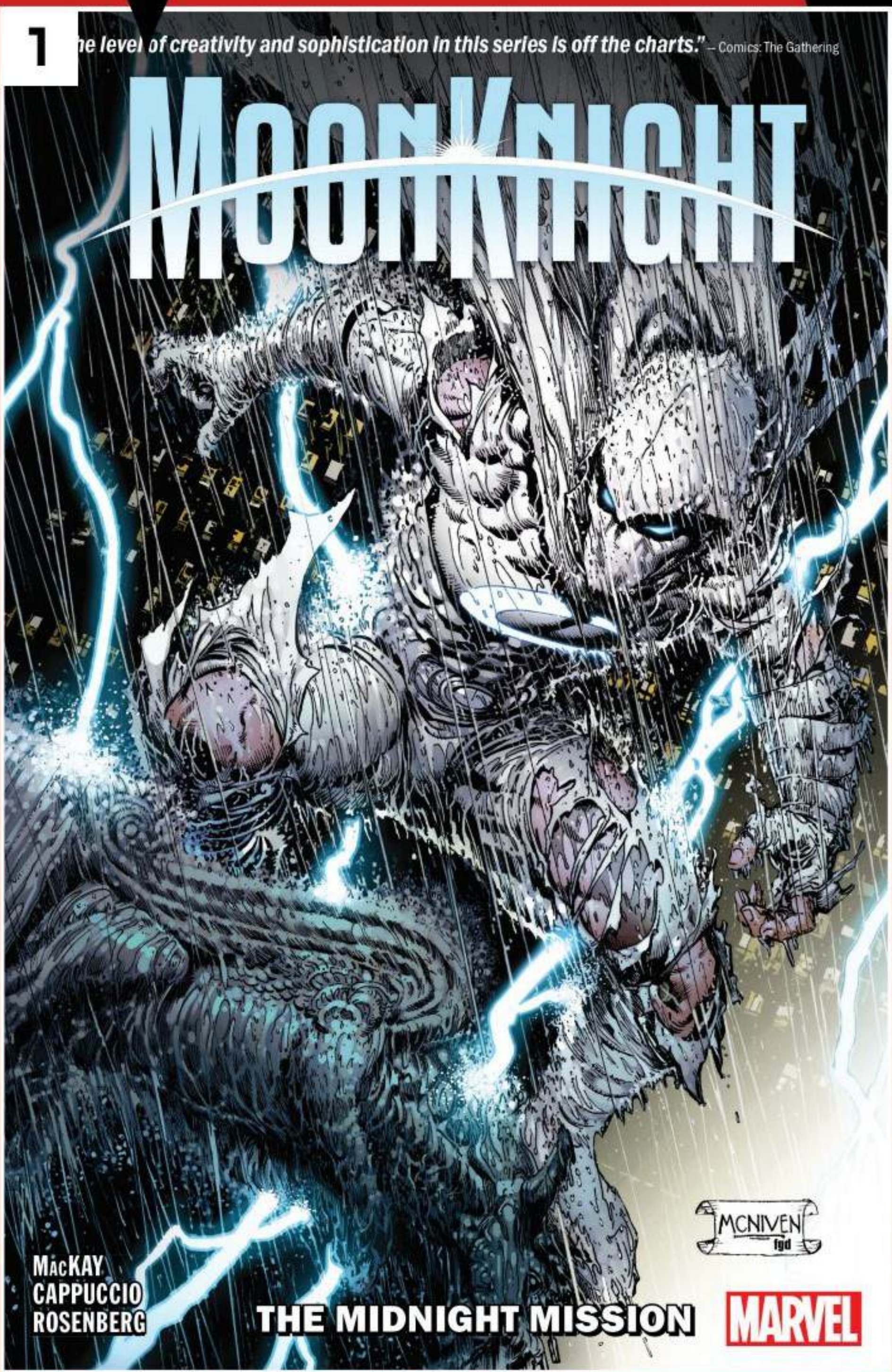


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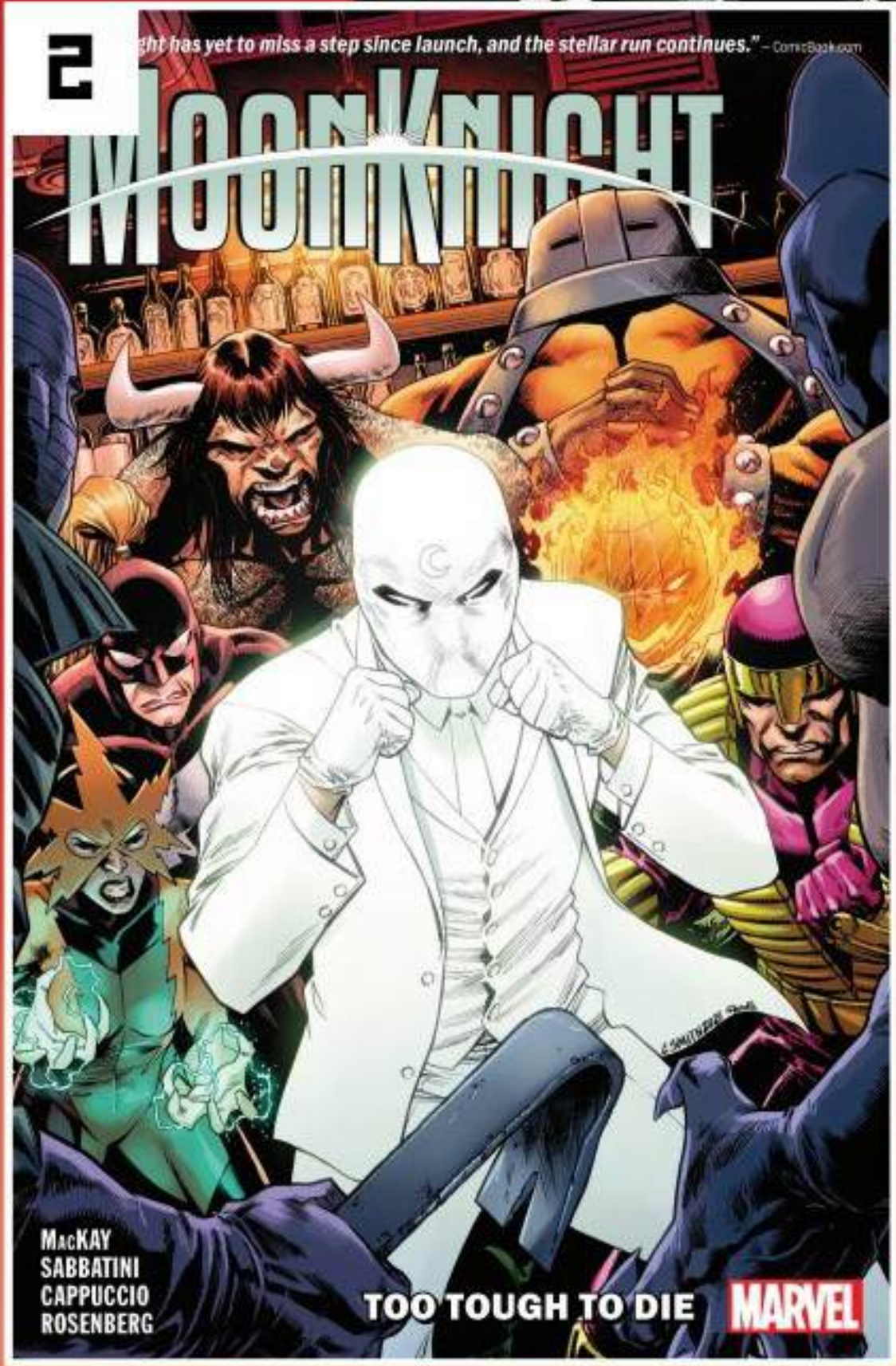
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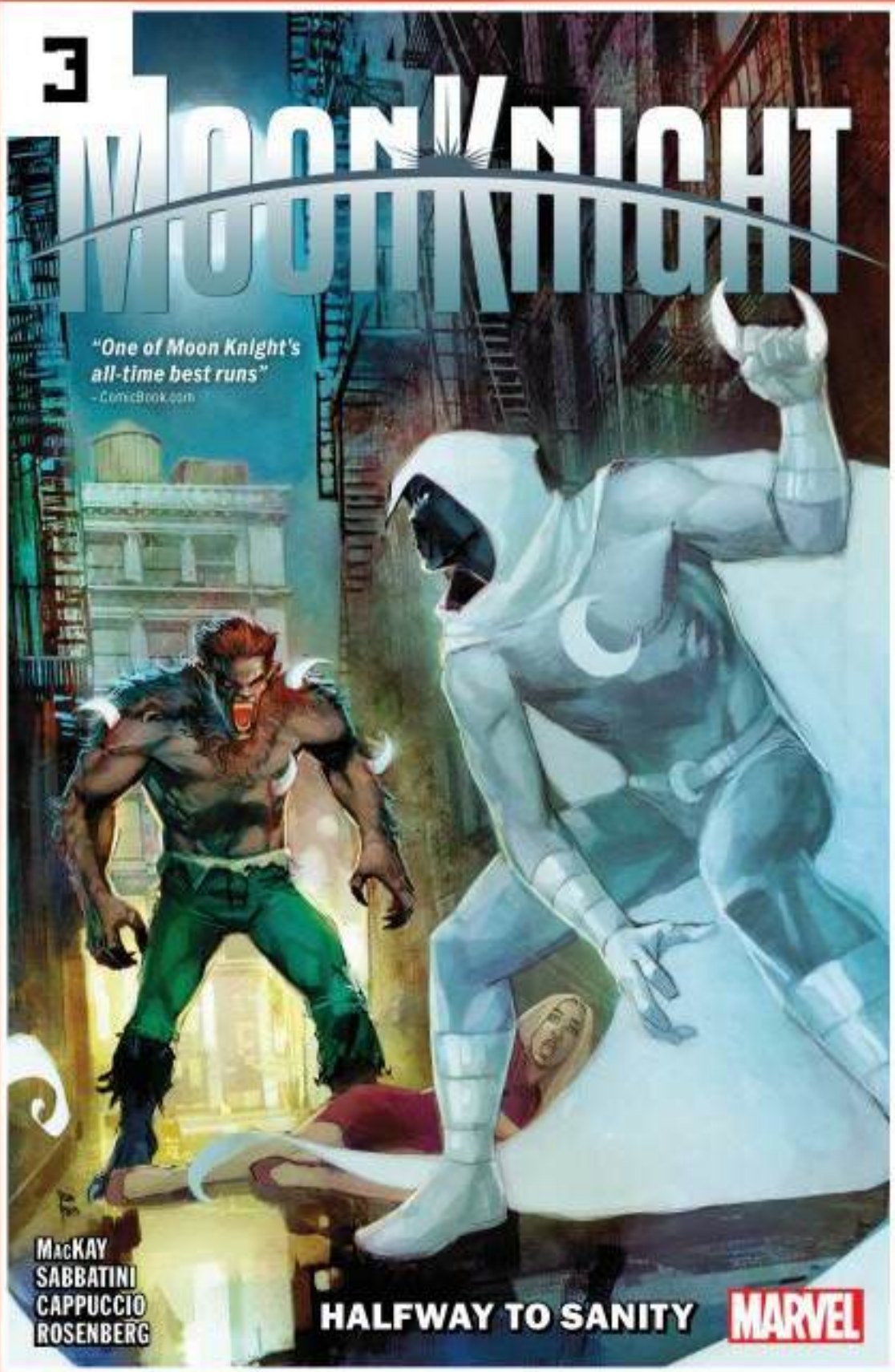


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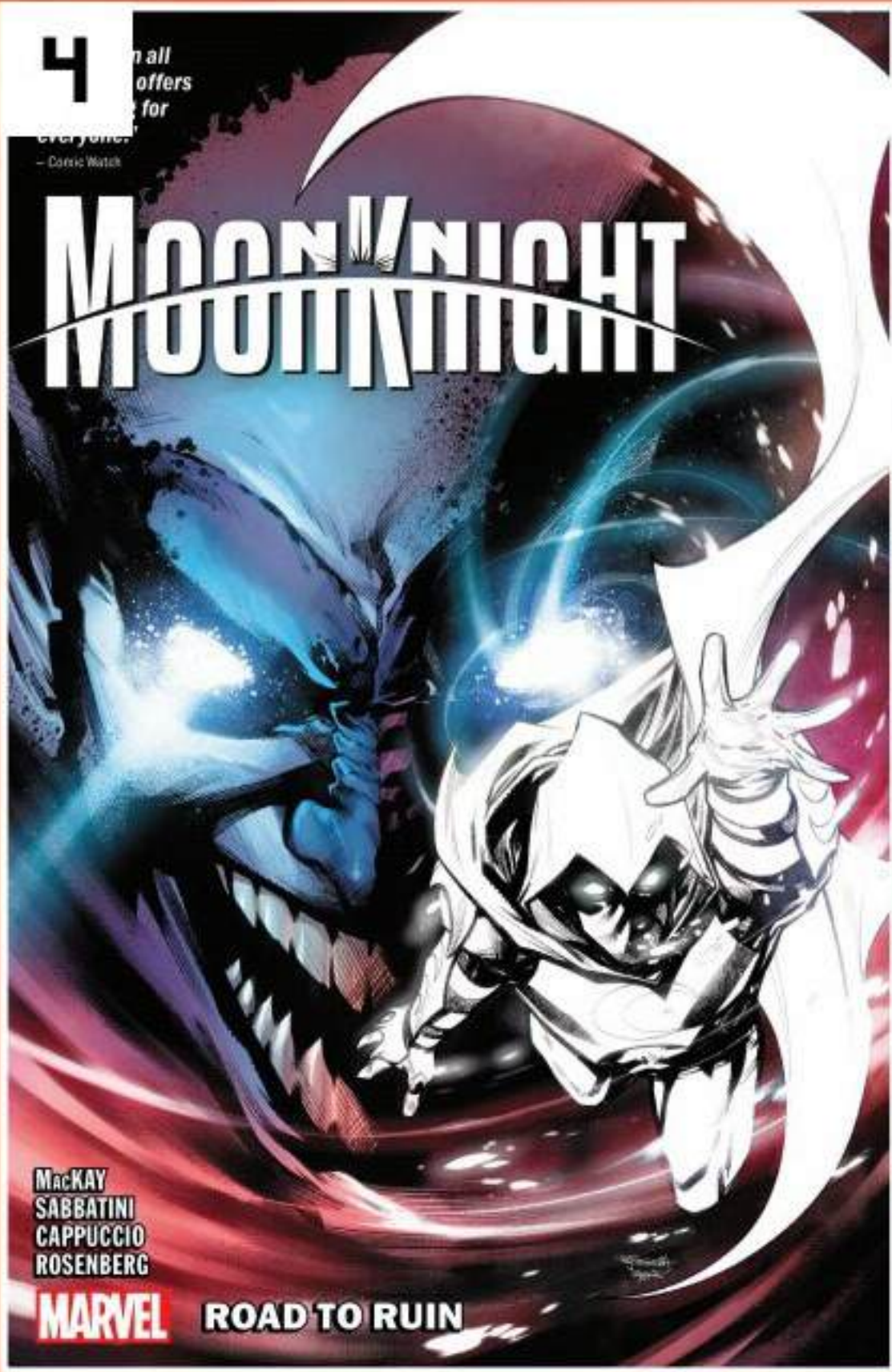


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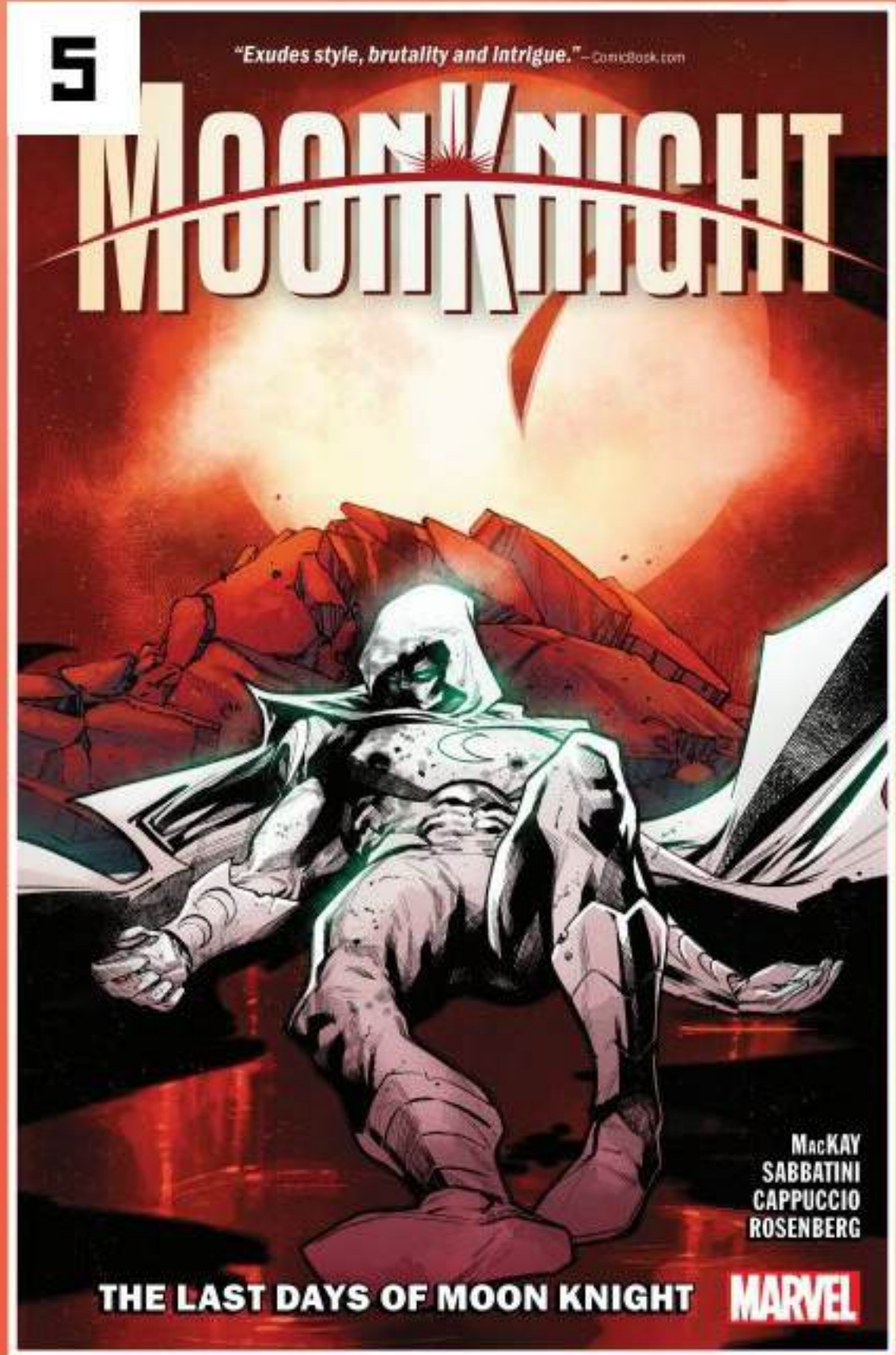
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